

Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Snowball effect for Murdoch

JOHN F. BURNS
JO BECKER
ALAN COWELL

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LONDON – Rupert Murdoch's once-commanding influence in British politics seemed to dwindle to a new low on Tuesday, when all three major parties in Parliament joined in support of a sharp rebuke to



US businessman Les Hinton, CEO of Dow Jones & Company and publisher of the Wall Street Journal, arrives a house where Rupert Murdoch was staying in central London, Tuesday, July 12, 2011. Hinton was the executive chairman of the embattled News International, the corporate umbrella of News of the World, before taking the position at News Corp.-owned Dow Jones. His tenure coincided with much of the hacking and police payoffs that led to the British tabloid's closure last week.

(AP Photo/Lefferis Pitarakis)

his media empire and a parliamentary committee said it would call him, along with two other top executives, to testify publicly next week about the growing scandal enveloping his media empire.

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V.P. Sabrina Lacle: Aruban "Trumps" in Panama



Aruban-born Vice President of AMG PRWORKS Sabrina Lacle is pictured together with Donald Trump during the inauguration of the tallest building in South America.
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Senate leader says give Obama new debt limit power

ANDREW TAYLOR

JIM KUHNHENN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The top Republican in the Senate proposed on Tuesday giving President Barack Obama sweeping new power to, in effect, unilaterally increase the U.S. debt limit to avoid a first-ever default on U.S. obligations.

The new mechanism would take the place of the current White House debt negotiations among congressional leaders and Obama. Those talks over spending cuts and tax increases have grown increasingly acrimonious.

Minority Leader Mitch McConnell offered a new plan to allow the president to demand up to \$2.4 trillion in new borrowing authority by the summer of next year in three separate submissions. Those increases in the so-called debt limit would automatically take effect unless both the Republican-

controlled House and the Democratic Senate enact legislation specifically disapproving it.

McConnell said he reluctantly offered the unusual proposal because it has become clear the negotiations with Obama are not going anywhere.

Obama would be able to veto such legislation.

The Republican plan would

require that Obama submit spending cuts along with his borrowing requests. But unlike the increase in the debt limit, they wouldn't automatically take effect.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, said he had spoken briefly to McConnell about the idea and said he would consider it. The sweeping new power would only be in effect

through the remainder of Obama's term, which ends in January 2013.

McConnell's plan would permit an immediate increase in the debt limit of \$100 billion while Congress debates whether to disapprove of it. An Aug. 2 deadline looms for Congress to raise the country's debt limit. Republicans are insisting on major budget cuts to reduce the swollen deficit. Obama and his fellow Democrats are also offering budget cuts but in tandem with tax increases that the Republicans say they won't support. Both Democratic and Republican leaders agree the U.S. shouldn't be allowed to default on its obligations, which could skyrocket interest rates, send stock markets plunging and shatter faith in the world's No. 1 economy.

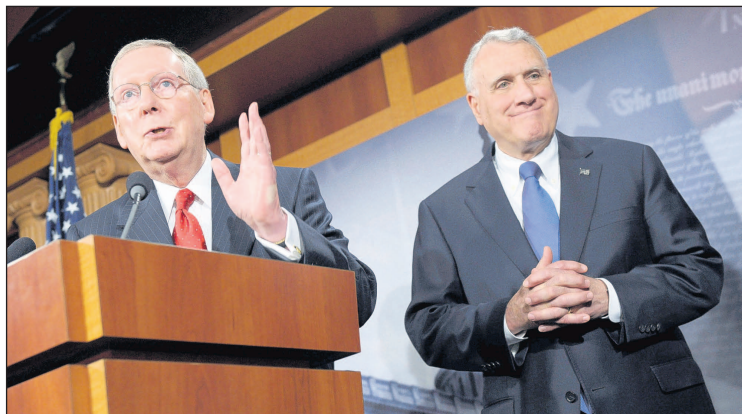
The showdown comes as Obama and lawmakers head into next year's presidential and congressional

elections.

McConnell offered the plan just a couple of hours before he was scheduled to go to the White House for the third round of budget talks in as many days.

"I had hoped all year long that the opportunity presented by his request of us to raises the debt ceiling would generate a bipartisan agreement that would begin to get our house in order," McConnell said. "I still hope it will. But we're certainly not going to send a signal to the markets and the American people that default is an option."

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and other market experts have issued dire warnings of the effect a potential default would have on the still-struggling economy, including a downgrade in the government's AAA bond rating, higher interest rates and panic in financial markets here and abroad. □



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., left, accompanied by Senate Minority Whip Jon Kyl of Ariz., gestures during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, July 12, 2011. McConnell proposed on Tuesday giving President Barack Obama sweeping new power to, in effect, unilaterally increase the U.S. debt limit to avoid a first-ever default on U.S. obligations.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

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Arizona lawmaker Klein points gun at reporter

PAUL DAVENPORT
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — A gun-toting Arizona state senator is on the defensive, drawing criticism after reports emerged that she pointed her raspberry-pink semi-automatic pistol at a reporter while demonstrating its laser sight during a recent interview.

It's not the first time that Republican Sen. Lori Klein of Anthem has made headlines in connection with a personal weapon.

In January, Klein carried a different gun to the Legislature's opening joint session. That was just two days after the Tucson shooting rampage that left six people dead and 13 others wounded, including U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

The latest incident, which occurred last month, was mentioned in passing in a lengthy story published Sunday by The Arizona Republic about Klein's practice of carrying a gun to the Capitol.

The Arizona Guardian posted a story on its website Monday drawing attention to the June instance mentioned in the Republic.

Subsequent online commentary generally said Klein ignored a basic tenet of gun safety: Don't point a weapon at somebody unless you're willing or intending to shoot.

The incident is troublesome for gun-rights advocates, said Terry Allison, a gun-safety instructor and former president of the Arizona State Rifle and Pistol Association.

"Any time when you have an incident that is embarrassing or perceived to be life-threatening by the general public this hurts the cause because it puts all gun owners in a bad light," Allison said Tuesday in an interview. "People are afraid when they see someone carrying a gun because they're afraid it might be pointed at them." The exact circumstances of what happened during the June interview in the Senate lounge are in dispute, but Klein acknowledged that her gun at one point was pointed at Republic reporter Richard Ruelas. □

Witness tampering alleged at Casey Anthony trial

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Authorities were looking into allegations of witness tampering during Casey Anthony's murder trial, a Florida sheriff said Tuesday during a wide-ranging news conference with his top investigators in what he said was an effort to bring closure to a case that polarized the country.

Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings also revealed that prosecutors were considering perjury charges against Anthony's mother, but a spokeswoman for the state attorney's office later said they would not be pursued. Casey Anthony was acquitted a week ago on charges of killing her 2-year-old daughter Caylee in 2008. Anthony was found guilty on four charges of lying to law enforcement officers. She is to be released from jail Sunday.

The sheriff held the news conference to defend his investigation and because his office had been besieged with interview requests since the verdict.

"The ultimate goal ... is that our personnel can get back to work doing the business of the taxpayers and residents of Orange County," Demings said. "This is the only way that we can move forward."

Demings wouldn't say who was accused of witness tampering, but it didn't involve Casey Anthony's mother, Cindy.

She stunned prosecutors during the trial when she testified that she had done searches for chloroform on the family's comput-

er. Prosecutors believed, along with sheriff's investigators, that Anthony had performed the search.

Witnesses were later called to challenge Cindy Anthony's claim, and in the days after the verdict, prosecutors hinted at possibly charging her.

viewed some witnesses.

"In regards to where we will go, it really depends on what information we get and what people come forward to provide additional information," Allen said.

The investigators at the news conference sat at a

staff and our community."

Demings said his office followed up on more than 600 tips and worked with more than 100 FBI agents.

He said he is still in the process of working with his accounting department to total up substantial investigative costs. Prosecu-



Forensics investigators with the Orange County Sheriffs Department, Jennifer Welch, left, and Gerardo Bloise, answer questions during a news conference with other investigators from the Casey Anthony case in Orlando, Fla., Tuesday, July 12, 2011. A spokeswoman for a prosecutor's office says Anthony's mother will not face perjury charges for testimony during her daughter's murder trial. Cindy Anthony initially told police she did not search for chloroform on the family computer, but at the trial she said she did. Demings says authorities are also investigating a witness tampering allegation. He would not elaborate.

(AP Photo/John Raoux)

The government presented evidence at trial that chloroform was found in Anthony's car trunk and insinuated that she could have used it to render Caylee unconscious.

As for the alleged witness tampering, detective John Allen would only say the sheriff's office has inter-

table alongside a big picture of Caylee. The sheriff said it was a reminder of what his investigators were pursuing during the three-year case that dominated his resources.

"This is what this was all about," Demings said. "It was about a missing child. That's what motivated our

tors want Anthony to incur those costs because they said the lies she was convicted of telling investigators directly led to the expenditures.

"Obviously those were resources that could have been put toward finding other missing children," Allen said. □

US House vote leaves light bulb standards alone

JIM ABRAMS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives failed on Tuesday to stop the enactment of new energy-saving standards for light bulbs they portrayed as yet another example of big government interfering in people's lives. The party's bill to overturn the standards set to go into effect next year fell short of the two-thirds majority needed for passage. The vote was 233-193.

For many Republicans, those new-fangled curly fluorescent light bulbs

were the last straw, pushed by an overreaching government that is forcing people to buy health insurance, prodding them to get more fuel-efficient cars and sticking its nose into too many places.

Their legislation would have kept the marketplace clear for the cheap, energy-wasting bulbs that have changed little since Thomas Alva Edison invented them in 1879.

For most Democrats, the minority party in the House, it was an exasperating debate that, just like the old incandescent bulbs being crowded out of the market, produces more

heat than light.

The standards in question do not specifically ban the old bulbs but require a higher level of efficiency than the classics can produce, essentially nudging them off store shelves over the next few years.

Four of Edison's descendants said the great inventor would be mortified to see politicians trying to get the nation to hang on to an outdated technology when better bulbs are available.

The standards have not been particularly contentious before now. □

Beating the heat at Michigan's messy "Mud Day"

Westland, Michigan - Buckingham Palace has Kate and William, and now Westland has its own young royals: Cole and Kathryn.

Cole Argo, 10, of Novi and Kathryn Hepp, 6, of Northville are the newly crowned king and queen of the 24th annual Mud Day.

Cole and Kathryn were among roughly 5,000 people who used the annual event as a way to beat the heat Tuesday at Hines Park in Westland.

Children and adults alike dove into the mud pit, which took about 200 tons of topsoil and 20,000 gallons of water to create.

"The kids love it," said Brianna Conatser, 29, of Redford, who was enjoying her second year at Mud Day with her three kids. "They just love to get dirty."

Though Conatser admits she's no fan of the mud, she couldn't stop her youngest daughter, 2-year-old Bella, from diving in.

"She was in way before me," Conatser said, snapping a photo of Bella covered head to toe in mud.

Although the event was originally designed for those 12 and younger, dozens of the young-at-heart joined in the fun, like Dan Perone.

"This is my first time coming, and I definitely plan on coming back," said Perrone of Canton, who brought along his girlfriend, Candi Bostain of Romulus, to celebrate his 48th birthday in the mud bath. "It's a new adventure for us."

The two have been together for two years and said they are always searching for ways to have fun to-

gether. "There's nothing like the mud squishing between your toes," Bostain said. "Now I know what pigs feel

like." Mud Day offered many activities for its participants, including limbo contests, races and the crowning of

a mud king and queen, an honor bestowed on the two people covered in the most mud. But some kids didn't take to



Kids run into the mud pit during the annual Mud Day in Westland, Mich., Tuesday, July 12, 2011. Wayne County mixes more than 200 tons of topsoil and over 20,000 gallons of water to ensure that the mud is just right.

(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

being slathered with mud. "I made up my mind, I'm not going in," said Spencer Christ, 5, of Dearborn Heights. His mother tried to convince him to just stick his

feet in the brown goop, but he refused. Wayne County's director of parks and recreation said the secret to the event's success is that it's all about

the kids. "Kids always have to stay clean at home," Director Beverly Watts said. "This is one day where they can get down and dirty." □

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Survey:

'Service' often missing in 'customer service'

Susan Salisbury

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WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. -- If

you've ever walked out of a store because the service was poor, or hung up the phone on customer service without being helped, join the club.

You're in the majority, according to a Consumer Reports survey of almost 1,000 consumers.

The survey covered not only retailers, but every type of company that deals with customers including cable companies, phone companies, hotels and more.

Sixty-four percent of respondents said that in the past year they had left a store and 67 percent bailed out on the phone.

The biggest gripe is not being able to reach a human on the phone, with 71 percent of respondents saying they are "tremendously annoyed" when that happens. While there are still a number of locally owned stores where knowledgeable sales staff actually wait on customers, and there are helpful people

at many stores, there are many exceptions. Consumer Reports crunched the numbers from its recent studies of 21 industries and identified the companies that were the best or worst

Among those ranking "best" in customer service in their categories were Dillard's, U.S. Cellular and the Ritz-Carlton.

Newspaper resolves Best Buy run-in



Women with shopping bags cross paths in front of Bloomingdales in New York.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

for customer service.

The survey published in its July issue found Walmart and Sam's Club to be among the worst for customer service, with one or both ranked "worst" in eight categories from appliances to cell phones.

Domingo Lopez of West Palm Beach, who works as a foreman at Aqua Shapes International in North Palm Beach, recounted a recent bad experience at Best Buy. It ended happily after he contacted The Palm Beach Post and Best Buy customer

care for help.

On June 27, Lopez purchased a \$635 50-inch television from Best Buy in West Palm Beach. After he arrived home and opened the box, he saw that the screen was cracked.

The next day, since Lopez had to go to work, his wife went to Best Buy with the TV and the receipt, but

was told she could not exchange the damaged TV. Lopez said he regrets not checking the item before leaving the store. He also is sorry he did not speak up when the employee who was transporting the TV on a cart had to squeeze it through a tight passage, bumping the box's corner. □

San Diego barrio's \$58-million moment

MORRIS NEWMAN

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SAN DIEGO -- A 20-year effort by city officials to bring a supermarket and other essential services to Barrio Logan, a working-class neighborhood south of downtown, has entered its final phase with the construction of a \$58 million retail and housing development aimed at Hispanic shoppers. The anchor of the 311,000-square-foot project, called Mercado del Barrio, is Northgate Gonzalez Market, a grocery chain based in Anaheim, Calif.

"The community has lacked a modern, Hispanic-oriented supermarket," said Kevin McCook, an acquisitions and development manager for Shea Properties, which is building the retail part of the Mercado. "We're trying to fill that void."

The market and a restaurant tenant will

occupy free-standing buildings in the development, which is in the shadow of the huge San Diego-Coronado Bridge. In a third building, retail storefronts wrap around all four sides of the building on the ground level, while 92 affordable apartments sit atop the retail space. Within the structure is a three-story, above-ground parking garage.

Chelsea Investment Corp. of Carlsbad, Calif., which specializes in low-income housing, is the apartment developer. Completion of the entire project is scheduled for late 2012.

Located on the San Diego Bay waterfront, Barrio Logan dates to the early 20th century. The former neighborhood of fishermen became industrialized during World War II, when San Diego became a center of shipbuilding. □

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Obama awards Army Ranger Leroy Petry Medal of Honor

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama awarded the nation's highest military honor, the Medal of Honor, to Army Ranger Sergeant First Class Leroy Arthur Petry today. Petry is only the second living, active duty service member to be awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan.

A veteran of eight deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, Petry received the nation's highest military honor for the courageous actions he took in Paktya province, Afghanistan in May 2008. Wounded and under enemy fire, Petry saved two fellow soldiers by tossing away an enemy grenade that landed near them, losing his own right hand in the process.

Petry's "selfless acts" remind us that "heroes still exist," Obama said at the White House award ceremony this afternoon. "There are heroes all around us. Millions of Americans in uniform who served these past ten years."

Petry enlisted in the Army in 1999 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and was training to be an Army Ranger on 9/11. He has since served six deployments in Afghanistan and two in Iraq.

Petry "carries with him memories of the Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice, who have made this progress in Afghanistan possible," Obama said today.

Obama recounted that earlier today Petry showed him a plaque literally bolted to his prosthetic right arm that carries the names of all the fallen fellow Army Rangers from the 75th regiment. "Quite literally, they are a part of him," Obama said, "as they are part of America."

At one of the saddest parts of the ceremony, Obama acknowledged in the East Room audience the family members of one of the fallen soldiers listed on Petry's prosthetic arm.

Army Ranger Specialist Christopher Gathercole, 21, died of a gunshot wound sustained during the May 2008 operation that Petry helped two other soldiers

survive.

Obama also spoke at the White House ceremony today of the painful sacrifices made by the spouses and children of U.S. military service members, including Petry's wife Ashley and their four children: "Our heroes are all around us."

In May 2008, Petry was part of a military assault team assigned to apprehend a high-value target in a compound in Paktya province. Petry and a fellow Army Ranger, Private 1st Class Lucas Robinson, entered a court yard on the compound, when they came under enemy fire. Bullets passed through both of Petry's legs, and another round hit Robinson on a side-plate.

After a fellow Army Ranger,

deliberately risked his life to move to and secure the live enemy grenade and consciously throw the grenade away from his fellow Rangers, according to battlefield reports," Army News Service report said:

As Petry released the grenade in the direction of the enemy, preventing the serious injury or death of Higgins and Robinson, it detonated and catastrophically amputated his right hand. With a clear mind, Petry assessed his wound and placed a tourniquet on his right arm. Once this was complete, he reported that he was still in contact with the enemy and that he had been wounded again."

"If not for Staff Sergeant Petry's actions, we would have been seriously wounded or



President Barack Obama awards US Army Sgt. First Class Leroy Arthur Petry, from Santa Fe, N.M., the Medal of Honor during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, July 12, 2011. Petry is the ninth service member to have been named a recipient of the Medal of Honor for actions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

Sgt. Daniel Higgins, came to evaluate their wounds, "an insurgent threw a grenade over the chicken coop at the three Rangers," knocking "them to the ground and [wounding] Higgins and Robinson," the Army News Service reported in May when the award was announced.

Then an insurgent lobbed another grenade, which landed a few feet from the wounded Robinson and Higgins.

"Recognizing the threat that the enemy grenade posed to his fellow Rangers, Petry -- despite his own wounds and with complete disregard for his personal safety -- consciously and

killed," Higgins later said in a statement, according to Army news.

Petry is the ninth U.S. soldier to have served in Iraq or Afghanistan to receive the Medal of Honor. But only he and one other recipient, Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta, were bestowed the award while still alive.

"I think he absolutely deserves the Medal of Honor, but you are right that very few U.S. servicemen have been recognized with the nation's highest military award," Andrew Exum, a defense expert at the Center for New American Security who previously served in Afghanistan, told The Envoy. □



Former first lady Nancy Reagan, left, is escorted by former President George W. Bush following the funeral for former first lady Betty Ford at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church Tuesday, July 12, 2011, in Palm Desert, Calif.

(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong, Pool)

Betty Ford remembered at bipartisan memorial

**JEFF WILSON
JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press
PALM DESERT, California**

(AP) — First ladies, past and present, and others who called the White House home remembered Betty Ford on Tuesday, not just for her decades-long work against substance abuse but for her contributions to a political era when friendship among lawmakers helped them govern.

Speakers, including former first lady Rosalynn Carter and journalist Cokie Roberts, also hailed her as a force of nature whose boundless energy and enthusiasm, coupled with a steadfast determination to do what was right, pushed the country toward a commitment to equal rights for women and other causes.

Ford, who died at the age of 93 on Friday, reshaped the role of first lady with her plain-spoken candidness. In doing so, she helped bring such previously taboo subjects as breast cancer into the public discussion as she openly discussed her own battle with the disease. She was equally candid about her struggles with drug and alcohol abuse, and her spearheading of the creation of the Betty Ford Center to treat those diseases has benefited thousands.

"Millions of women are in her debt today and she was never afraid to speak the truth even about the most sensitive subjects, including her own struggle with alcohol and pain killers," Carter said. "She got some criticism, but I thought she was wonderful and her honesty gave to others every single day."

Behind the scenes she was also aggressive and effective, said Roberts, who noted that Ford's late husband, President Gerald R. Ford, confided to her privately that his wife badgered him relentlessly into stronger public support of equal rights for women.

The former first lady mapped out plans for her funeral well in advance, including who would deliver her eulogies, and Roberts said she told her to be sure to let people know that politics does not have to be as acrimonious as it is today.

"Mrs. Ford wanted me to remind everyone of the way things used to be in Washington, and I wouldn't be surprised if she timed her death so she could deliver the message of comity when it was so badly needed," she said as former President George W. Bush, a Republican, sat in the audience next to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, a Democrat. □

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Envoys say Gadhafi ready to go, says French FM

ELAINE GANLEY
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France's foreign minister said Tuesday Paris has had contact with emissaries from Moammar Gadhafi who say the embattled Libyan strongman is "prepared to leave" power. It was not immediately clear whether such an offer is credible or amounts to a potential breakthrough in the Libyan crisis. But Gadhafi has refused to leave or give up power.

Alain Juppe said that while the contacts do not constitute proper negotiations, "everyone (involved in Libya's civil war) has contacts with everyone else. The Libyan regime sends its messengers all over, to Turkey, to New York, to Paris.

"We receive emissaries who are saying, 'Gadhafi is prepared to leave. Let's discuss it,'" Juppe said, without identifying the envoys. The U.S. State Department said that Washington, too, is getting visitors.

"We have a lot of folks claiming to be representatives of Gadhafi one way or the other reaching out

representing the rebels) remains to have a clear-cut message — that Gadhafi is prepared to understand



A view of the National Assembly during the debate on the French intervention in Libya in Paris, Tuesday, July 12, 2011. France's foreign minister said Tuesday Paris has had contact with emissaries from Moammar Gadhafi who say the embattled Libyan strongman is "prepared to leave."

(AP Photo/Jacques Brinon)

to lots of other folks in the West," said State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland. "But the messages are contradictory, and we remain to (hear) a clear-cut message — more importantly, the TNC (Transitional National Council

that it's time for him to go," she said.

French officials and their allies have insisted that Gadhafi's giving up power is key to ending the hostilities, which began in mid-March, and Juppe said that more and more coun-

tries agree on that point.

"There is a consensus on how to end the crisis, which is that Gadhafi has to leave power," Juppe said. "That (consensus) was absolutely not a given two or three months ago.

"The question is no longer whether Gadhafi is going to leave power, but when and how," he said.

France was instrumental in launching the NATO-led operation of airstrikes against Gadhafi's forces, in a U.N.-mandated mission to protect civilians resisting his four-decade regime.

NATO flew more than 100 sorties Monday and hit several key targets in western Libya, including a military storage facility, three military facilities and seven military vehicles, according to an operational report issued Tuesday.

Juppe's upbeat talk came hours before French lawmakers voted overwhelmingly, 482-27, to continue the French role in the

NATO-led air campaign. French law requires parliamentary approval for all military campaigns lasting more than four months.

In Tripoli, Libyan officials warned that the rebel-controlled eastern half of the country could be cut off from water supplies without a truce to allow for maintenance work on a power plant pumping water up from the desert.

About 70 percent of the country relies on water brought up from underground aquifers deep in the southern desert, and the plant powering it in the east is falling apart, said the Libyan agricultural minister.

"Out of six turbines, we are using one turbine in the plant because of lack of maintenance," said Abdel-Maguid al-Gaud, who also heads the system known as the Great Man-made Water Project, which supplies water to both halves of the country. "It's going to close itself." □

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Berlusconi pledges to push through austerity bill

RACHEL DONADIO
DAVID JOLLY

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ROME — Acknowledging publicly that Italy was in danger of being pulled into Europe's sovereign debt crisis, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi on Tuesday insisted that his government would push through a contentious austerity bill.

Berlusconi said the government was "stable and strong, the majority cohesive and determined" to pass the bill. It calls for 40 billion euros, or \$56 billion, in tax increases and cuts to the public sector.

In a country where the term "austerity" has only entered the national conversation recently and where the government's rhetoric has often been removed from economic reality, Berlusconi's statement was notable for its tone as well as its contents.

Italian Senate leaders said they would speed discussion of the bill for approval as early as Thursday, allowing it to pass directly to the lower house. Italy's finance

minister, Giulio Tremonti, is expected to meet Wednesday with senators from the government and center-left opposition to discuss the budget bill.

Tremonti is held up by many

Tremonti may be on the way out led investors to flee Italian debt, sending yields soaring.

The interest on its 10-year bond rose to nearly 6 percent Tuesday morning, but

take charge of discussions on the austerity measures. The government also successfully sold one-year Treasury bills.

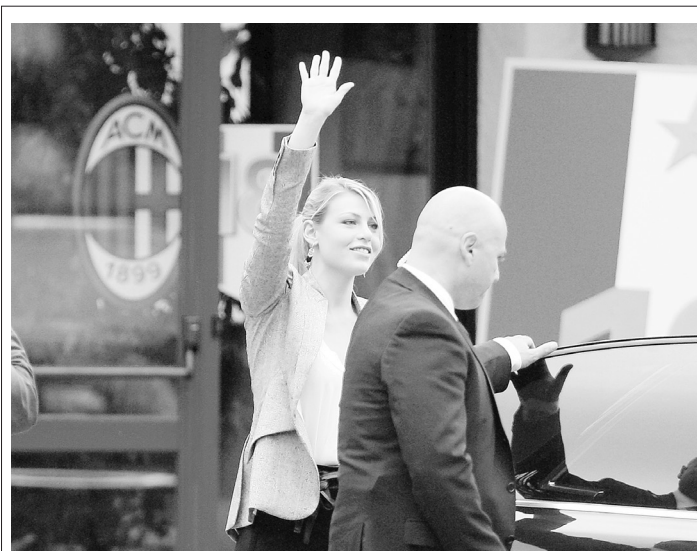
While underlining the strengths of Italy's economy, Berlusconi for the first time acknowledged that "for us, for Italy, this moment is certainly not easy."

"We need to be united and cohesive in our common interest, aware that the efforts and sacrifices made in the short-term will result in permanent and secure gains," he added. He said that the "crisis of confidence" had hit not only Italy but also the common currency itself. In recent days, the prime minister has been conspicuously absent from television, the medium through which he normally communicates, in a sign that as his era draws to a close, he may now be seen as a liability to Italy's international credibility.

Berlusconi also has not appeared with Tremonti, indicating to some analysts that the tensions within the governing coalition have only been covered temporarily in an effort to pass the budget but are still boiling beneath the surface.

Despite Italy's high public debt, low growth and political instability, economists said Italy was objectively in better shape than Greece, Spain, Portugal and Ireland because it did not have a housing bubble, its budget deficit is relatively small compared with the size of its economy and the majority of its debt is held domestically.

But the worries about Italy have further shaken the already fragile global market sentiment. □



AC Milan soccer team member of the board Barbara Berlusconi, daughter of Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi and girlfriend of Brazilian striker Pato, waves to fans as she leaves the AC Milan training center in Carnago, near Varese, Northern Italy, Tuesday, July 12, 2011.

(AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)

investors as being instrumental to Italy's bid for market credibility. Comments last week by Berlusconi that

fell back to 5.56 percent, a decline from Monday, after Tremonti returned to Rome early from a meeting of eurozone officials to

U.S. deports Guatemala massacre suspect

AMY TAXIN

SONIA PEREZ D.

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — A former member of an elite Guatemalan military force suspected of carrying out a 1982 massacre was extradited from the United States on Tuesday, ending a two-decade exile in which he spent years working in a southern California sweater factory. Pedro Pimentel Rios, 54, was flown on a government-chartered plane to Guatemala and turned over to authorities, said Virginia Kice, a spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The news was celebrated in Guatemala by a lawyer for victims of the Dos Erres massacre, in which more than 150 people were killed. Witnesses say men, women and children were tortured and robbed by the soldiers as part of a "scorched earth" effort to eliminate communities supporting insurgent groups at the height of Guatemala's 36-year civil war. Attorney Edgar Perez said more than 100 witnesses would be available to testify in the case. Pimentel, a former instructor at the Guatemalan training school for a force known as the "kaibiles," was ordered deported from the United States in May when an immigration judge rejected his bid for asylum. He is one of more than a dozen former kaibiles who have been sought by Guatemalan authorities for the killings. U.S. authorities have helped track down four of them. Three were arrested last year in the United States, and another was located and arrested in Canada and now faces extradition requests to the United States and Spain. □

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Belfast police, Catholics clash after parades

SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press

BELFAST, Northern Ireland

(AP) — Police firing plastic bullets and powerful water cannons forced Catholic militants away from a disputed Belfast road Tuesday as Northern Ireland's annual day of Protestant marches reached a fiery climax.

Catholic youths lashed out at police both before and after the marches by the Orange Order, a Protestant brotherhood whose yearly July 12 demonstrations celebrate 17th-century military triumphs over Catholics — and often inspire a violent response from the province's minority.

Hundreds of mostly teenage Catholics, who covered their faces with masks and hoods, waged running street battles with heavily girded police on the narrow streets of Ardoyne, a hard-line Irish nationalist enclave of red-brick rowhouses in north Belfast.

Police reported standoffs, smaller riots and the sporadic burning of hijacked cars in several other Catholic parts of this British territory. The confrontations, which continued for several hours into the night, underscored how Northern Ireland's 1998 peace accord has failed to heal communal wounds that run decades deep.

Each year "The Twelfth," an official state holiday despised by most Catholics, lays bare the depths of Northern Ireland's divisions. □

Lawmakers to call Murdoch to testify in phone-hacking case

Continued from Front Page

Murdoch has been struggling to complete a huge, controversial takeover deal that still needs regulatory approval: the \$12 billion acquisition of the shares in British Sky Broadcasting that it does not already own. In an effort to save that deal from the scandal's fallout, Murdoch has already shut down the tabloid at the heart of the scandal, News of the World. But the accusations have spread to other papers in his News International group, and have taken in an ever wider and more outrage-provoking list of victims.

The House of Commons is due to vote Wednesday on a motion declaring that "it is in the public interest for Rupert Murdoch and News Corporation to withdraw their bid for BSkyB," a motion pushed by the opposition Labour Party that Conservatives decided on Tuesday to support. In all, at least 600 of the 650 members of the house are expected to vote yes.

Though it would have little direct effect, the motion represents a powerful political headwind blowing against the deal, and against Murdoch. He seemed to acknowledge as much on Monday when News Corp. withdrew promises it had made to satisfy antitrust concerns about the deal, most notably that Sky News, the target company's 24-hour news channel, would be spun off. Before the scandal flared up,

the Conservative government had shown readiness to waive a formal antitrust review, based on those promises. A regulatory review would not just delay the deal for months, but

group, the Sunday Times, employed "known criminals" to gather personal information on Brown's bank account, legal files and tax affairs.

If Rupert Murdoch seemed



In this image from a BBC television interview aired Tuesday July 12, 2011, former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown speaks during an interview. Brown on Tuesday accused Rupert Murdoch's newspapers of employing criminals to obtain confidential information about his family, his private financial affairs and the lives of ordinary people who were at "rock bottom." Brown's furious denunciation of the politically powerful News International papers came a day after questions were raised about how The Sun newspaper obtained confidential information in 2006 that Brown's infant son Fraser had cystic fibrosis.

(AP Photo/BBC)

may kill it. A Parliamentary committee on Tuesday said it would call Murdoch, his son James and Rebekah Brooks, the chief executive of News International, to testify next week about the accusations of phone-hacking and corruption at the News International papers, in what is likely to be one of the most sensational parliamentary hearings in years. New and alarming charges came on Tuesday from former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who said that one of the most prestigious newspapers in the

under greater pressure than ever, a separate Parliamentary committee investigating years of indecisive police probes into News of the World's rampant phone-hacking operations spent hours on Tuesday grilling police officers who led the inquiries. Some of the most humbling moments for the police came as members of the home affairs committee demanded to know why John Yates, once regarded as Scotland Yard's fastest-rising star, and still the head of the police's counterterrorism force,

spent only one day in a formal review of an earlier police investigation. That investigation had wrapped up after netting only two miscreants at the paper and securing brief jail terms for them; Yates concluded in 2009 that there was nothing more to probe. At one point, committee member Steve McCabe leaned into his microphone and said, "You just don't seem like the dogged, determined sleuth that we would expect." That was followed by the committee chairman, Keith Vaz, rebuking Andy Hayman, the officer, now retired, who oversaw the original investigation from 2005 to 2007: "All this sounds more like Clouseau than Columbo." When Hayman went on to acknowledge that he had private dinners with journalists from News of the World at a time when the paper was under a criminal investigation that he oversaw, and defended that by saying that to "have turned it down would have been potentially more suspicious than to have it," peals of laughter erupted in the hearing room. When Hayman, startled, protested — "I don't know why you're laughing" — another committee member retorted, "Because it's so incredible." The hearing's most startling revelation came with the disclosure of the sheer scope of the new police investigation, covering many more potential phone-hacking victims than the 4,000 that police investigators have previously said they identified. □

Crowds calling for change again pack Cairo square

**HAMZA HENDAWI
MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press**

CAIRO (AP) — The tens of thousands of Egyptians whose chants for faster change are ringing through Cairo's Tahrir Square months after they brought down Hosni Mubarak got a stern warning Tuesday from the ruling generals not to disrupt daily life in what some activists are calling a second revolution.

The crowds again packing the powerfully symbolic square that was the center of the 18-day uprising in January and February defied the military council and staged a sit-in there for a fifth straight day, shutting down the heart of downtown Cairo and blocking access to a major government building.

Under a baking summer sun, they revised the slogan that resounded in Tahrir in the winter, which went, "The people want to bring down the regime." On Tuesday, they cried out: "The people want to bring down the military junta," in reference to the generals who took control as Mubarak stepped down.

Activists who once viewed the army as allies now accuse the military council of stalling on demands to bring police and ex-regime figures to justice for abuses during Mubarak's nearly three decades in power and for the deaths of nearly 900 people in the Jan. 25-

Feb. 11 protests.

"We either get their rights back, or we die like them," screamed the crowd, al-

giving the round-the-clock protest camp an air of semi-permanence like it had in the winter.



Egyptian protesters capture two of some 30 men armed with knives and sticks who attempted to storm the protesters' tent camp set up in Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt, Tuesday, July 12, 2011. Egypt's military rulers have sternly warned protesters against "harming public interests" as demonstrators lay siege to Cairo's largest government building and threaten to expand their sit-in to other sites in the capital.

(AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

luding to the crackdown victims.

An estimated 30,000 people filled the square Tuesday, and tents and banners have sprung up again,

In another scene reminiscent of the uprising and the tactics Mubarak's police state used to try to snuff it out, a band of 30 men armed with sticks set upon

protesters, wounding six of them.

Hours later, the military issued a thinly veiled threat to use force.

"All options are open to solve this situation," military council spokesman Mahmoud Hegazi told reporters.

A statement read out on state TV by finger-wagging council member Maj. Gen. Mohsen el-Fangari warned protesters against "harming national interests." And ominously, it called on "honorable" Egyptians to confront actions that disrupt a return to normal life, something many interpreted to be a call on Egyptians to turn against each other.

Protesters ridiculed his threatening tone.

"Oh, Fangari and your finger, we don't respond to arm twisting. We don't have demands. We have orders," a protester screamed from atop one of the square's podiums.

The protesters' new display of street power — not just in Cairo but around the nation — in recent days appears to be spurring the military and the interim government to act.

Interim Prime Minister Essam Sharaf, whose office near Tahrir was surrounded by thousands of protesters Tuesday, said he planned to change many of the country's provincial governors by the end of the month, weeding out

Mubarak loyalists.

A day earlier, he said he would reshuffle the Cabinet within a week. His interior minister, Mansour el-Issawi, plans this week to retire dozens of police commanders thought to have been involved in the killing of protesters or rights abuses.

Also Tuesday, Egypt's state news agency said the Supreme Judicial Council, Egypt's highest legal body, has decided to allow live transmission of the trials of Mubarak-era officials accused of corruption as well as police officers charged with killing protesters.

The footage will be relayed to screens installed outside courthouses for the public to watch, it said. Protesters have been complaining of the lack of transparency in these trials. Sharaf also announced on his Facebook page that he had accepted the resignation of Deputy Prime Minister Yahya el-Gamal, who has been widely criticized for his erratic behavior, seeking publicity and reconciliatory approach toward businessmen backed by Mubarak's regime. However, the protesters also want the powers of the military council to be curtailed and defined, giving Sharaf more leeway to introduce reform and cull Mubarak loyalists from the civil service, state media, the judiciary and the estimated 500,000-strong police force. □

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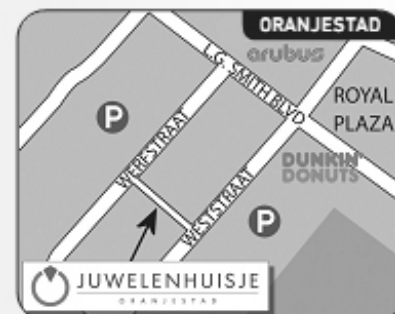
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Afghan president's half brother's killing increases rift

MIRWAIS KHAN
Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

(AP) — President Hamid Karzai's half brother, the most powerful man in southern Afghanistan and a lightning rod for criticism of corruption in the government, was assassinated Tuesday by a close associate. His death leaves a dangerous power vacuum in the south just as the government has begun peace talks with insurgents ahead of a U.S. withdrawal. Ahmed Wali Karzai, the head of the Kandahar provincial council, was shot to death while receiving guests at his home in Kandahar, the capital of the province that was the birthplace of the Taliban movement and was the site of a recent U.S.-led offensive.

Tooryalai Wesa, the provincial governor of Kandahar, identified the assassin as Sardar Mohammad and said he was a close, "trustworthy" person who had gone to Wali Karzai's house to get him to sign some papers. As Wali Karzai was signing the papers, the assassin "took out a pistol and shot him with two bullets — one in the forehead and one in the chest," Wesa said. "Another patriot to the Afghan nation was martyred by the enemies of Afghanistan." The killing coincided with a

visit to the capital, Kabul, by French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

"This morning my younger brother Ahmed Wali Karzai was murdered in his home,"

stability."

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the assassination at the heavily guarded house, hidden behind 8-foot (2.5 meter) blast

Kandahar on Tuesday evening by helicopter to attend the funeral scheduled for Wednesday morning, according to Raziq. Wali Karzai, who was in his

50s and had survived several previous assassination attempts, was seen by many as a political liability for the Karzai government after a series of allegations. □



Afghan police men and U.S. soldiers are seen outside the hospital, where the body of Ahmed Wali Karzai, half brother of Afghan President Hamid Karzai, was taken in Kandahar, south of Kabul, Afghanistan on Tuesday, July 12, 2011. President Hamid Karzai's powerful half brother, a lightning rod for criticism of deep-rooted corruption within the Afghan government, was assassinated Tuesday by a bodyguard at his home in southern Afghanistan.

(AP Photo/Allauddin Khan)

the Afghan president said during a joint news conference with Sarkozy. "Such is the life of Afghanistan's people. In the houses of the people of Afghanistan, each of us is suffering and our hope is, God willing, to remove this suffering from the people of Afghanistan and implement peace and

walls. The Interior Ministry said an investigation was under way, and Kandahar Police Chief Gen. Abdul Raziq said police have detained several men who were guarding Mohammad's home for questioning about his recent activities.

President Karzai arrived in

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MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS
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matinee: 1:15
late show: 11:00
PG

TRANSFORMER 3
daily: 5:00 - 8:15

matinee: 1:30
late show: 11:30
SP PG-13

CARS 2
daily: 5:15

matinee: 12:00 - 2:45
late show: 11:30
SP PG

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Visa delays imperil Iraqis who helped U.S.

TIM ARANGO

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BAGHDAD – Terrorism fears in the United States are all but halting visas for Iraqis, even those who risked their lives aiding the U.S. war effort, making them especially vulnerable ahead of the planned U.S. military withdrawal.

The Obama administration has required new security background checks for visa applicants, reacting to a case in Kentucky in which two Iraqi immigrants were arrested for alleged ties to an insurgent group, according to U.S. officials in Baghdad.

Advocates say that the administration is ignoring a directive from Congress to draft a contingency plan to expedite visas should those Iraqis who worked for the U.S. government, especially interpreters for the military, come under increased threat after U.S. forces are drawn down at the end of the year.

"This is not a priority right now for anyone in the government," said Becca Heller, who runs the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project at the Urban Justice Center in New York. "Not enough people in the Obama administration care about this topic."

The flow of Iraqis to the United States this year could be the fewest since 2007, when the Bush administration was facing an uproar for not effectively addressing the refugee crisis brought on by its invasion. Through the first nine months of the current fiscal year, fewer than 7,000 Iraqis have been admitted to the United States. In March, just seven were admitted on a so-called special immigrant visa – a class established by Congress to quickly move Iraqis in danger for having helped the U.S. government – and in April, just nine. In some months last year more than 200 arrived on such visas. The logjam has put numerous Iraqis, like the Avisa family, in a potentially dangerous bind. Their story is sadly a common one: A brother was

kidnapped and tortured, and the children were bullied in the schoolyard, accused of being spies even by the principal.

Last month they received the phone call they thought would never come. Their visa applica-

this time with bad news. The departure was delayed indefinitely and without explanation.

"It hurts me even more than all the threats we received," said the father, who asked to be identified only as Abu Hassan for security reasons.

where there's a way to stall the program, there's a will to do it."

Congress required the Pentagon to coordinate with the Departments of State and Homeland Security to submit a report to Congress that accounted for

for the legislation was to avoid a huge refugee crisis like the one that followed the pullout from Vietnam. A few years ago, after British forces pulled out of Basra, the southern Iraqi port city, translators were rounded up and slaughtered en masse.

In an interview in Baghdad in May, Eric P. Schwartz, assistant secretary of state for the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, said he had no information about the report.

"We feel that we are prepared to deal with any variety of contingencies," he said.

Many thousands of Iraqis worked as interpreters for the U.S. military, translating not just words but the cultural folkways of a land most soldiers knew nothing about. Maj. Gen. Jeffrey S. Buchanan, the top military spokesman here, said of his interpreters over the years, "We were in a lot of hairy stuff together," he said. "So you get a bond with these guys that's incredible."

Like many officers, he helped a translator from a previous tour navigate the bureaucracy of resettlement. Asked about the process, he said, "He got there. It took a long time." Another former interpreter of his recently saw him on Iraqi television and contacted him.

"He got captured by al-Qaida and was held for about seven months and was tortured," Buchanan said.

The U.S. government never kept track of how many Iraqis it employed. "50,000? 100,000? 120,000? Who knows?" Johnson said.

The government also never accounted for how many Iraqi employees were killed or injured. But it is clear hundreds have died, and many more have been wounded. A database kept by Titan, a contractor that provided interpreters, was leaked to Johnson and published in ProPublica. For a period between 2003 and 2008, the document showed nearly 300 deaths of interpreters hired by Titan. □



Abu Hassan, second from left, with his wife, Umm, and their three children, all of whom are waiting for approval to leave Iraq for the U.S., inside a friend's home in Baghdad, July 9, 2011. The Obama administration has required new security background checks for Iraqi visa applicants, and the result has been a flow to the United States this year that could be the smallest since 2007.

(Joseph Sywenkyj/The New York Times)



Ghaith Baban, who currently works for the USAID and has received death threats for his collaboration with the U.S., checks the bottom of his car for a bomb in Baghdad, July 8, 2011.

(Joseph Sywenkyj/The New York Times)

tions were approved, and they would soon be on their way to Arizona. The father quit his job at Zain, a cellphone company, the kids left school, the television, furniture and air-conditioner were sold, and the remaining belongings were packed into more than a dozen suitcases. The family of five took up temporary residence in a friend's storage room. The week before the flight, another phone call came,

"We were expecting, 'This is it.'"

The mother, Um Hassan, whose brother and father worked for the U.S. military and now live in Arizona, said only, "I feel sick."

Kirk Johnson, who worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development in Fallujah in 2005 and then founded The List Project, a nonprofit group that aids Iraqis who worked for U.S.-affiliated organizations, said, "Basically, I think

the number of Iraqis who worked for the U.S. government over the past eight years, as well as the number of those people killed or injured.

The agencies were also required to draft a plan to expedite visas for the most pressing cases, should insurgents threaten those left behind after the military leaves. But neither the Bush nor the Obama administration has met the targets set by Congress.

The numbers are stark: Beginning in 2008, Congress expanded the special immigrant visa program to allot 25,000 slots over five years. After nearly four years, the government has issued roughly 7,000.

The Department of Defense failed to meet a May deadline for the report on U.S.-affiliated Iraqis, and officials at both the Pentagon and the State Department, which was supposed to contribute to the document, cannot say when it may be completed.

Johnson said the impetus



V.P. Sabrina Lacle: Aruban "Trumps" in Panama

ORANJESTAD – Aruban-born Vice President of AMG PRWORKS Sabrina Lacle directed public relations in the opening of the new Trump Ocean Club International Hotel and Tower in Panama, the tallest building in Latin America, inaugurated last week by Donald Trump.

Billionaire celebrity real estate mogul Donald Trump, accompanied by his son Eric, was in Panama City on Wednesday (July 6) to inaugurate the Trump Ocean Club, a (roughly) 1,000-unit hotel, luxury residential tower and casino. Lacle joined the AMGW team in March 2008 as Senior Director of AMGW PR Works. Prior to joining AMG Worldwide, Lacle served as Account Executive at Lou Hammond & Associates. Lacle is a graduate of Florida International University where she obtained a Bachelors degree in Mass Communications and a Masters degree in Integrated Marketing Communications. Lacle will continue running the public relations division which has grown in the last three years from a small marketing "add-on" for AMGW to a three million dollar company that South Florida Business Journal recently named the #6 largest PR agency in the region.

The Trump Ocean Club is located above Panama Bay and is minutes away from the sophisticated shops and nightlife of Punta Pacifica.

The building - designed by venerated architect, Aria Serna Saravia and developer Newland International Properties stands 70 stories tall in the shape of a sail fully deployed in the wind. It is now the tallest building in Latin America.



The resort with an investment of \$430 million, has 369 hotel rooms, including 47 suites, including a floor with elite boutiques and shops, multiple restaurants, a pool overlooking the Pacific Ocean and over 46,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor meeting space. It also has a 10,000 square-foot spa, a casino and a private beach club on nearby Isla Viveros which will be opened later in 2011.

Trump told a news conference, the hotel would create good job opportunities for the locals. "We walked into the hotel today and we were greeted by probably 250 people in the lobby that work at the hotel, they're going to work here for many many years to come. They'll educate their families, they'll take care of their health, they'll take care of so much because of the hotel and because of the great success of what this hotel will be, so that's fantastic."

Son Eric said they would like to expand in Latin America.

"This building was a great

kind of stepping stone for the rest of Central and South America, given the magnitude, given the stature. There's a lot of great markets, certain areas in Mexico will be great, Colombia, Costa Rica is a great market I'd like to be in. I'd like to go down to South America, Argentina."

Nevertheless, there was a bit of a hitch as a heavy rainfall flooded streets outside the Trump tower.

"It's unacceptable that in Punta Pacifica, with the amount of buildings we have, there is no proper drainage system," complained Norrison Jhones, Real-Estate worker.

Trump added that people generally don't want to invest in real estate but thinks Panama defies that rule pointing to Panama's booming economy, a \$5.25-billion expansion of the Panama Canal and seemingly relentless foreign company and investor interest in plowing money into the small Central American nation.

The Trump Hotel Collection includes developments in

New York, Chicago, Las Vegas, Waikiki, and Toronto.

This is the first Trump hotel in Latin America. □



U.S. FOL recently welcomed new commander

ORANJESTAD - Lieutenant Colonel Brian E. Bell relinquished command of the United States Forward Operating Locations (FOL) in Curaçao and Aruba to Lieutenant Colonel Richard J. Bailey, Jr., on June 16, 2011. The Change of Command is a time-honored military tradition which symbolizes the continuation of leadership and unit identity despite the change in individual authority. It also allows other airmen to personally witness the command authority passing from one officer to another. Passing the ceremonial flag from the old commander to the new commander physically represents this transfer. Under the command of Lt. Col. Bell surveillance flights from the FOL achieved many victories in the Caribbean counternarcotics efforts. Flights from the U.S. FOLs directly contributed to the seizure of 148 metric tons of narcotics with a street value of over \$2.9 billion USD and 296 counter drug arrests. Activities at the FOL injected more than US \$90 million into the local



Lieutenant Colonel Brian E. Bell (left) relinquished command of the United States Forward Operating Locations (FOL) in Curaçao and Aruba to Lieutenant Colonel Richard J. Bailey, Jr., (right) on June 16, 2011.

community. Also during Commander Bell's tenure, U.S. FOL military and civilian personnel volunteered their services in support of 82 community projects and were pleased to continue partnering with various local agencies to benefit the people of Curaçao.

In his closing remarks, he stated "Today is yet another example of the outstanding support, friendship and partnership the USFOL has experienced during the past year. Your attendance here reflects the relentless commitment that Curaçao and Aruba,

through the hosting of our FOLs, has made to the tenacious international counter-drug effort in this key region of the world. On a personal note, I will fondly remember the people and my time spent on these islands the rest of my life. This has been the most reward-

ing assignment in my 20-plus years in the Air Force and the mission means a lot to the region." Lieutenant Colonel Richard J. Bailey, Jr., was the Chief Air Operations Officer in the Joint Synchronization and Execution Branch at the NATO Joint Force Command Brunssum in The Netherlands, where he oversaw air operations efforts for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan, as well as the NATO Reaction Force (NRF) and other initiatives prior to taking command in Curaçao and Aruba. The U.S. FOL, 429th Expeditionary Operations Squadron, supports multi-national aircraft operations that conduct detection, monitoring and tracking missions supporting counter-drug efforts in the region. U.S. FOL Curaçao was formed as a result of a multi-lateral agreement between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United States whereby aircraft and crews deploy to the U.S. FOL on a temporary basis to conduct mission operations. □

Aruhiba, The 1 and Only Homemade Aruban Cigar



ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is



specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till

8:30pm. And open on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are hand-made. For tour to the tabaco factory call: 586-0347 buy & receive one Aruban cigar free with this article. Address: soledad 14-a, noord • tel: (297) 593-6177 • bap59@live.com □



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Eveline & Francesco say "I do" as the sun sets



EAGLE BEACH - A Perfect Beach Blessing for Eveline & Francesco Olivier! On July 7th 2011 this lovely couple said "I do" on beautiful Eagle Beach. Eveline & Francesco had been contemplating the Caribbean and decided on Aruba because of its great weather, and security! Their first impression of the Island was: friendly people, wonderful warm weather and sunshine. The Beach Blessing was witnessed by their closest family and Friends, and the festivities continued with a dinner reception at Passions on the Beach Restaurant where the couple and their Guests dined and danced.... Eveline & Francesco's words were "Everything was absolutely great, from start to finish; we hope to return, very soon, to Aruba"

Ms. Anne Maduro, Mrs. Rita Morozow & Aruba Today would Like to extend their congratulations to the beautiful Bride & Groom. □



Prime Minister of St. Maarten Sarah Wescot-Williams.

Aruba, Curacao and St. Maarten form corporation committees

The islands of Aruba, Curacao and St. Maarten are moving ahead with matters of corporation with the islands.

This was the focal point of discussion in December last year between the Prime Ministers stated Prime Minister of St. Maarten Sarah Wescot-Williams on Wednesday morning. She further confirmed that St. Maarten has completed the formation of special committees, one strategic and the other a legal one that would prepare the framework of corporation in the desired areas. The formation of these

committees was part of the agreement coming out of the first meeting of Prime Ministers last year. It was also agreed that the meeting of the Prime Ministers would be held every six months. The next meeting is expected to take place shortly on the island of Curacao. Corporation between the islands of St. Maarten and Curacao have been bumpy lately in light of the Central Bank saga on Curacao. Members of the Curacao coalition government had indicated that they should have the majority control

in the institution, contrary to the agreements reached prior to 10-10-10. This prompted the council of Ministers to take a second look at the areas of corporation between St. Maarten and Curacao, particularly the Service Level Agreements (SLA's) that currently exist between the two Countries. In the meantime the corporation committees have started their work and according to Prime Minister Sarah Wescot-Williams, St. Maarten is still awaiting word from the other islands on the formation of their committees. □

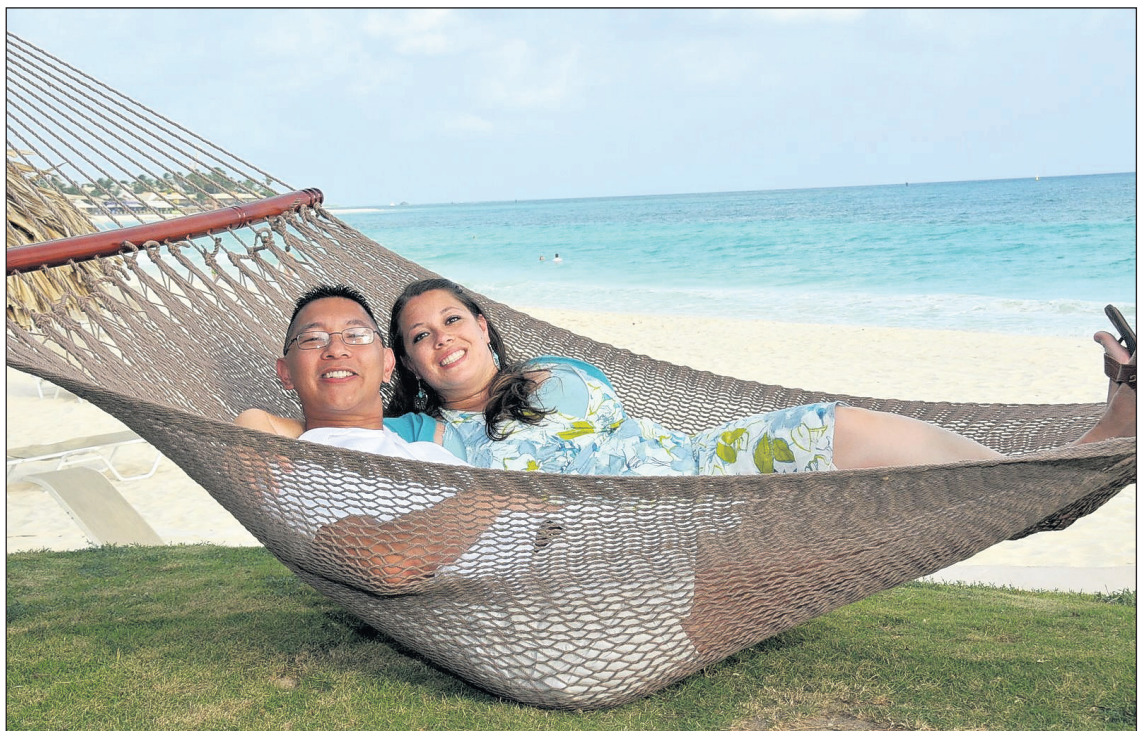
On One Happy Island Aruba

Dr. Atienza asks for Tina's hand in marriage



DIVI DIVI – On 7-11-11, Dr. Ariel Atienza asked his girlfriend Tina Shaw for her hand in marriage while underwater on a snorkeling trip off the coastline of Aruba. All choked up and not sure how to answer without drowning; she nodded yes to Ariel's expectations. Staying at the Divi Divi resort, Ariel continued to confirm his undying love for Tina under a palapa, in a hammock, next to the water's edge, at the famous Divi Tree, under a waterfall and each time with great love, Tina confirmed, yes my dear Ariel, I will marry you and spend the rest of my life with you. The pictures show the Seattle, WA couple in various locations around the island. This was their first trip to the island thanks to all of the wonderful reports and things said on www.aruba.com. They will definitely come back to Aruba in the future. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro



Cano edges Gonzalez to win Home Run Derby

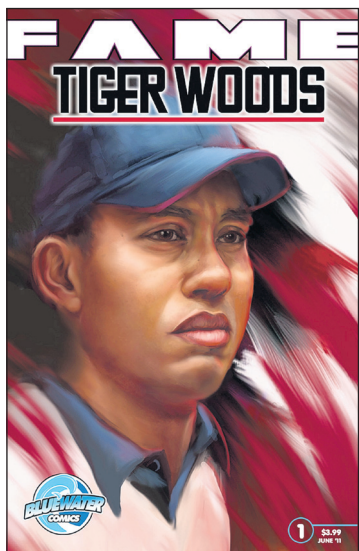
American League's Robinson Cano of the New York Yankees watches his winning home run at the MLB Home Run Derby Monday, July 11, 2011, in Phoenix.

Associated Press
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SPORTS Aruba TODAY

Tiger Woods' gets bio treatment in comic book



In this comic book cover image released by Bluewater Productions.

Associated Press

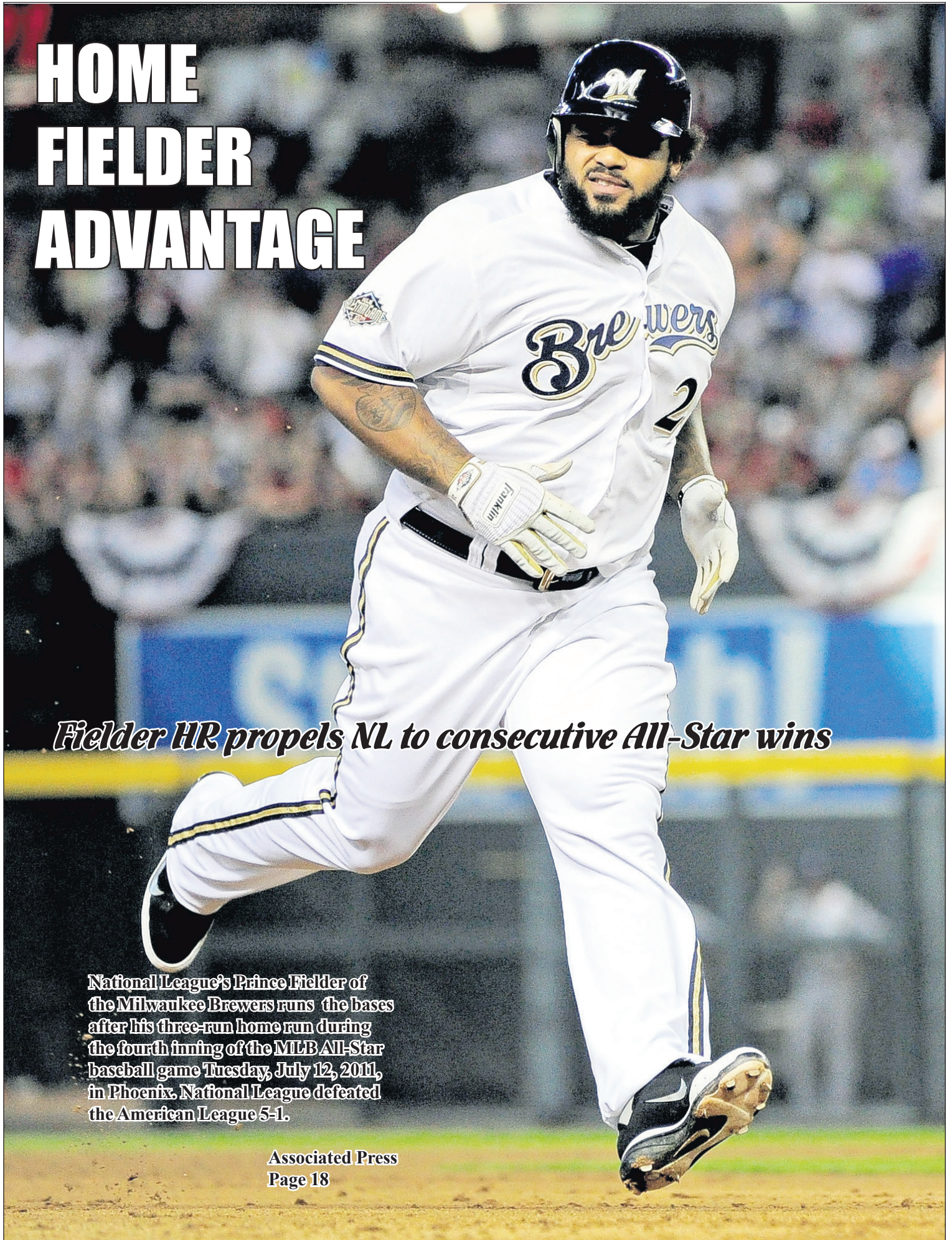
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Golfer Tiger Woods is the latest celebrity and athlete to get his own unauthorized biography in a comic book. Publisher Bluewater Productions Inc. said Tuesday that it will release its one-shot issue "Fame: Tiger Woods" on Wednesday in book stores, comic book shops and on-line, as it expands its already burgeoning line of biography comics that have profiled people from politics to music to film. Those profiled so far have included first lady Michelle Obama, singer Lady Gaga, Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg. Written by C.W. Cooke and illustrated by Marcelo Salaza, the 32-page issue is part of the Vancouver, Washington-based company's look at celebrity culture and how those in it rise from obscurity to notoriety and deal with life in the public eye. □

HOME FIELDER ADVANTAGE

Fielder HR propels NL to consecutive All-Star wins

National League's Prince Fielder of the Milwaukee Brewers runs the bases after his three-run home run during the fourth inning of the MLB All-Star baseball game Tuesday, July 12, 2011, in Phoenix. National League defeated the American League 5-1.

Associated Press
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Fielder HR propels NL to consecutive All-Star wins

By RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Pitching, speed and a little bit of power. The National League is back on top in the All-Star game, using the same formula that worked during its dominating run in the 1970s and '80s. Prince Fielder hit a three-run homer and Roy Halladay and his relief combined on a six-hitter to lead the NL over the AL 5-1 Tuesday night, giving the senior circuit its first two-game winning streak since the mid-1990s.

The NL claimed home-field advantage in the World Series, its only blemish being a home run by Adrian Gonzalez off Cliff Lee. With several big names as no-shows at Chase Field, the AL lost more than the game.

Boston right-hander Josh Beckett warmed up, then bowed out with a sore knee. Detroit slugger Miguel Cabrera left after hurting his side.

Even before they were hurt, many stars were missing. Justin Verlander, Felix Hernandez and many other aces started Sunday and were ineligible, Chipper Jones and Alex Rodriguez were among those on the disabled list and Derek Jeter wanted a break. In all, 16 of 84 All-Stars were dropped.

Tyler Clippard got the win despite allowing a single to Adrian Beltre, his only batter. Relievers Clayton Kershaw, Jair Jurrjens, Craig Kimbrel, Jonny Venters, Heath Bell, Joel Hanrahan and Brian Wilson combined to keep the NL ahead.

Fielder won the MVP award after becoming the first Brewers player to homer in an All-Star game. The World Series edge could help him later, with Milwaukee and St. Louis tied for the Central lead at the break.

The NL dashed around the bases and stole three bags, all in one inning. Bell showed some speed, too — the reliever provided the image of the night, sprinting in from the bullpen in the eighth inning and tearing up the turf with a slide just short of the mound.



National League players celebrate after defeating the American League 5-1 in the MLB All-Star baseball game Tuesday, July 12, 2011, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

In all, the Nationals have enjoyed their best run since taking three in a row from 1994-96 — they had lost 12 straight games played to a decision before a 3-1 victory at Anaheim last year. Andre Ethier and Pablo Sandoval also drove in runs for the NL.

Before a crowd of 47,994 that included Muhammad Ali, this was no desert classic — except for fans of pitching, which has become resurgent as the Steroids Era has receded. Scoring in the first half of this season dropped to its lowest level in 19 years and the major league batting average shrunk to its smallest midseason figure since 1985. The home runs were the first in the All-Star game since J.D. Drew connected at Yankee Stadium three years ago. The AL finished with six hits for the second straight year.

Given the temperature outside, the theme song for this game could have been the Buster Poindexter song "Hot Hot Hot." And except for Lee, that's what the NL pitching was.

San Francisco manager Bruce Bochy became a winner in his second All-Star try, following a defeat



National League's Prince Fielder of the Milwaukee Brewers holds his MVP award following the MLB All-Star baseball game Tuesday, July 12, 2011, in Phoenix. The National League won 5-1.

Associated Press

in 1999, and gave Giants closer Wilson, the 10th NL pitcher, got two outs for the save. Texas' C.J. Wilson, the fourth AL pitcher, took the loss for the team managed by the Rangers' Ron Washington. Despite the weather outside — 99 degrees at gametime — two separate groups opposed to Arizona's controversial immigration law protested outside of Chase Field before the game. One quietly passed out white ribbons that symbolized peace and unity and the other loudly chanting in bullhorns and marching in circles with signs that read "Boycott hate" and "Stand with us."

However, there was little

sign of the ribbons in the stands.

While it was hot outside in the Sonoran Desert, it was a comfy 72 thanks to an 8,000-ton cooling system in the ballpark, where the roof has remained closed for games since June 17. It was the first game here in the national spotlight since the famous Game 7 comeback by the Diamondbacks over the Yankees in the 2001 World Series, a factoid referenced at the start of the pregame introductions. In a modern stadium with an old-fashioned keyhole dirt path between the mound and the plate, there were flickers of sunlight shining through glass

panels in the roof when Halladay started Curtis Granderson off with a 91 mph pitch.

Once again, pitchers dominated early.

"I figured a lot of those guys were going to be swinging early," Halladay said.

Showing the strength that has given Philadelphia the best record in the majors, Halladay retired six straight batters — the first to do that in an All-Star game since Roger Clemens in 2001.

Lee, his Phillies teammate, followed and set down his first five hitters. Halladay, who started for the AL in 2009, joined Vida Blue, Clemens and Randy Johnson as the only pitchers to open for both leagues.

"It was nice to have Cliff come in right behind me," Halladay said. "I know Cole (Hamels) wanted to be there too."

Gonzalez, who switched leagues in the offseason by going from San Diego to Boston, stepped up in the fourth and lined an 86 mph cutter just to the right-field side of the swimming pool, where women in bikinis and a man in a Santa Claus outfit were watching. There's some history here — Gonzalez is 7 for 13 with four extra-base hits against Lee in games that count.

Jose Bautista singled on a popup behind first that Fielder dropped and advanced on Josh Hamilton's broken-bat single before Beltre singled sharply to left. Hunter Pence, who entered at the start of the inning, threw a strike to catcher Brian McCann well in time for the tag. With baseball still smarting from the season-ending injury to Buster Posey when Scott Cousins crashed into him in May, Bautista slid late to avoid a collision that would have brought up memories of Pete Rose's takeout of Ray Fosse in the 1970 All-Star game. --Carlos Beltran singled to shortstop leading off the bottom of the fourth and Matt Kemp singled before Fielder gave the NL a 3-1 lead against C.J. Wilson, hitting an 88 mph cutter the opposite way to left-center. □



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Cano wins Home Run Derby, beating Gonzalez

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Robinson

Cano outslugged Adrian Gonzalez to win the All-Star Home Run Derby on Monday, transporting the old Yankees-Red Sox rivalry to the other side of the country.

Batting last and being pitched to by his father Jose, Cano defeated Gonzalez 12-11 in the finals Monday after they each hit 20 home runs through two rounds.

Before a crowd of 44,820 on the night before the All-Star game, Major League Baseball said Cano set a final-round record.

Gonzalez and Cano were the most impressive hitters throughout, and they eliminated defending champion David Ortiz of the Red Sox and Milwaukee's Prince Fielder (nine apiece) in the second round. St. Louis' Matt Holliday (five), Toronto's Jose Bautista (four), Milwaukee's Rickie Weeks

(three) and the Dodgers' Matt Kemp (two) didn't get past the opening round.

Weeks was booed by fans, upset he was picked for the derby over Arizona's Justin Upton. Chants for Upton resumed when he made nine straight outs.

Fielder, who chose his derby teammates, wound up in a tiebreaker to advance from the first round and went 5 for 5, including a 455-foot drive off the ballpark's back wall. He had the longest drive of the night at 474 feet and also hit a ball onto the pool deck area in right-field.

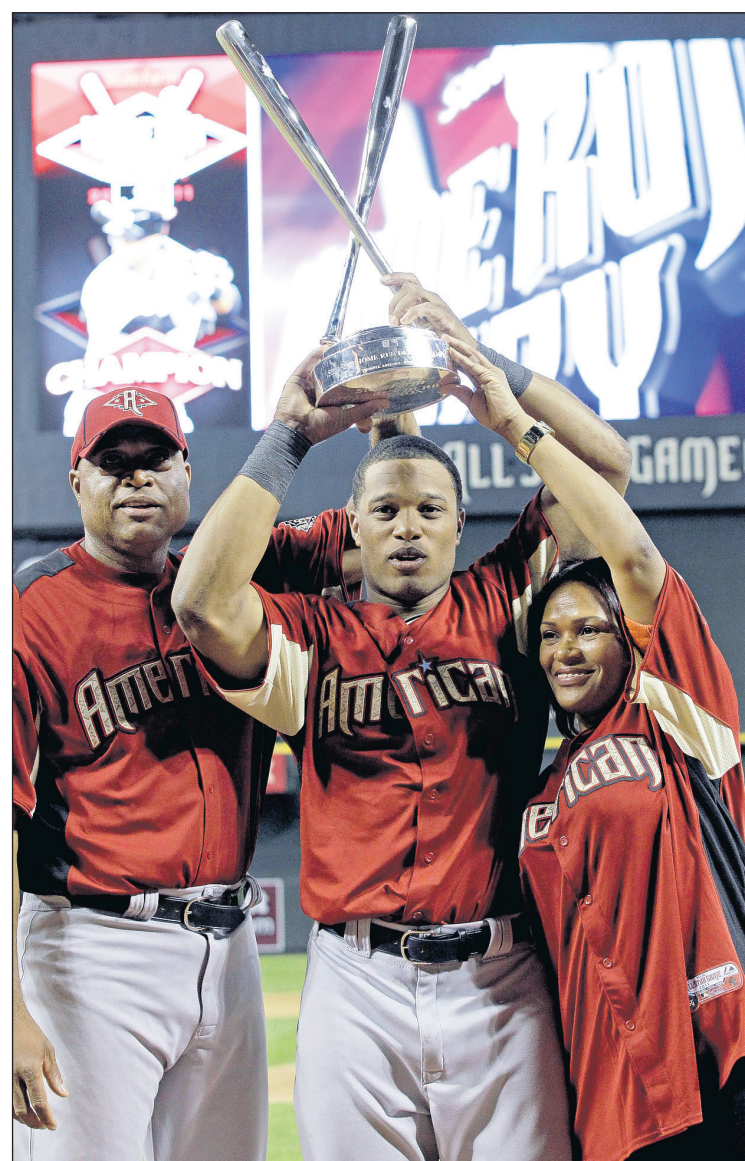
The pool area was the focus of much of the day's action, for better or worse. Days after a fan died at a Texas Rangers game while attempting to catch a ball, the danger was highlighted again when a fan standing on a table above the pool fell trying to catch a homer. He was grabbed by his brother before going all the way over, where he

could have fallen about 20 feet, and was dangling by his feet when he was pulled back up.

"I stepped up on the table, I missed the ball by 2 or 3 feet and went over," the fan Keith Carmickle said. "We caught three balls and I told the guys I was going to go for the cycle. Dude, they were really holding onto me." Carmickle's brother grabbed his arms and Aaron Nelson held his legs.

"He wasn't going down, I was holding on," Nelson said. Gonzalez hit a ball that wound up in the swimming pool, along with Mike Moon, a 26-year-old fan who caught the ball before falling into the water, where he was surrounded by bikini-clad women.

"I saw the ball, I didn't want to spill my beer and I didn't spill my beer," he said. "I leaned forward, caught the ball, then fell like that (leaning backward). It was pretty cool." □



American League's Robinson Cano of the New York Yankees holds his trophy with his father, Jose, left and mother Claribel Mercedes after winning the MLB Home Run Derby Monday, July 11, 2011, in Phoenix.

Associated Press



Mostly female jury seated for Roger Clemens trial

MARK SHERMAN

NEDRA PICKLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An overwhelmingly female jury with little interest in baseball will decide whether former pitching star Roger Clemens lied to Congress when he said he

never used performance-enhancing drugs. The jurors who took their seats Tuesday include a woman whose cousin, former outfielder Al Bumbry, was a coach for the Boston Red Sox when Clemens played for the team. Another woman on the jury

said she believes Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick was "done wrong" in his criminal conviction in connection with dogfighting. The jury took shape after four days of questioning by U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton and lawyers for both sides. □

Fan nearly falls from stands during homer derby

By **JOHN MARSHALL**

AP Sports Writer |

PHOENIX (AP) — The ball arching against Chase Field's bright lights, Keith Carmickle climbed up on a narrow table, leaned forward and lost his balance, momentum carrying him toward a 20-foot fall to a pool deck below.

Had it not been for the quick reactions of his brother, a friend and a handful of fans Monday night at Major League Baseball's All-Star Home Run Derby, Carmickle might have suffered the same fate as Shannon Stone, the Texas Rangers' fan who died Thursday night trying to catch a ball thrown into the stands.

"I thought: I've lived a good life," Carmickle said. Seated in a small section of seats above the right-field fence, Carmickle, from Kingman, and his group had already grabbed home run balls by Robinson Cano and Adrian Gonzalez, and were looking to add another to their collection when Milwaukee's Prince Fielder came up in the second round of the derby.



Fans hold the legs of Keith Carmickle from Kingman, Ariz. as he nearly fell over a railing trying to catch a ball during the MLB Home Run Derby Monday, July 11, 2011, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

Trying to snare a towering shot by Fielder, Carmickle stepped up onto a metal table about 18 inches wide and reached down for the

catch. He missed the ball, which hit the wall several feet below him, and the momentum carried him forward, headfirst over a short railing.

Carmickle was headed for a hard landing when his friend, Aaron Nelson, grabbed his legs and his brother, Kraig, grabbed

him around the arms.

The crowd above and below gasping, Carmickle dangled briefly over a deck where a couple of cameras were positioned behind Chase Field's pool before his brother, Nelson and a few fans pulled him back to his seat.

The near miss was eerily similar to what happened to Stone, the 39-year-old memorialized in Texas earlier Monday after falling 20 feet to his death while trying to catch a ball thrown into the stands by Rangers outfielder Josh Hamilton.

"He tried to catch it, I grabbed his legs and his brother grabbed his arms," said Nelson, who, along with Kraig Carmickle, is from Chandler. "So when he went over the ledge, we pulled him back. He wasn't going down, I was holding on."

The Carmickles and Nelson gathered themselves after the close call and let out a few shouts before breaking

into high-fives.

They relived the moment with a few of the fans around them, then again as they looked at photos taken by an Arizona Republic photographer, who had shots from behind of Carmickle standing on the table, then falling.

They spoke with security personnel a few minutes later and were allowed to remain in the game, with Carmickle putting his arm around a security guard before he walked back to his seat.

"I stepped up on the table, I missed the ball by 2 or 3 feet and went over," he said. "We caught three balls and I told the guys I was going to go for the cycle.

Dude, they were really holding onto me."

Fielder didn't notice the close call and continued his turn in the derby.

"I didn't see it," he said. "We don't need any of that." □

Greipel lets bike do talking at Tour

JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

CARMAUX, France (AP) — After all the feuding and hard words, Andre Greipel finally got what he wanted and it had nothing to do with talk: a winning ride in the Tour de France.

The German sprinter beat Mark Cavendish — his former teammate and sometimes adversary — by the length of a wheel Tuesday to capture the 10th stage of a three-week race that is soon to leave the flatlands for the perilous climbs of the Pyrenees.

Thomas Voeckler of France kept the yellow jersey after nestling safely in the main pack for most of the day. Defending champion Alberto Contador did much the same, and the Spaniard had even more reason to be careful after hurting his right knee during crashes in the fifth and ninth stages.

"At the beginning of the stage, I wasn't sure what

to think," said Contador, a three-time champion. "But as the stage progressed my knee was feeling less sore." Contador, the best climber in the world, trails main rivals Cadel Evans of Australia and Andy Schleck of Luxembourg by 1:41 and 1:30 entering Wednesday's flat run.

Tuesday's 98-mile trip from Aurillac to Carmaux ended with Cavendish applying brutal acceleration and seemingly headed toward his third stage victory in this Tour. Instead, Greipel got on his wheel and surged ahead in the last 20 yards, a winning leg in cycling's showpiece race at last secure.

Greipel and Cavendish clashed last year while on the HTC-Highroad team. Greipel, who now rides for Omega Pharma-Lotto team, was in a conciliatory mood.

"I have a lot of respect for Cavendish — he was won



Stage winner Andre Greipel of Germany celebrates on the podium of the 10th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 98.2 miles starting in Aurillac and finishing in Carmaux, south central France, Tuesday July 12, 2011.

Associated Press

17 stages of the Tour de France. Now I have one," Greipel said. "He was not always really friendly with his comments (about) me. This is not my level. I just try to show on the bike what I am able to do. I always said to my teammates that we need to believe in our race and do our own things." Jose Joaquin Rojas of Spain was third. The top three completed the stage in 3 hours, 31 minutes, 21 seconds.

Cavendish is one of the most outspoken cyclists,

his comments sometimes scathing. But after beating Greipel to win last Friday's seventh stage in Chateauroux — in much the same way Greipel beat him Tuesday with a late sprint — the two cleared the air.

"We had a chat after the Chateauroux stage and he said 'I have a big respect for your sprint,'" Greipel said. "I think he has shown he is one of the fastest sprinters on earth."

Cavendish repaid the compliment, giving credit where it was due.

"Now I'm happy for him. He's come to the Tour de France and he's won," Cavendish said. "I feel I made a mistake, but Greipel beat me so there's not an excuse I can say."

Cavendish thinks he should have timed his run better.

"I didn't commit early enough, I didn't kick," he said. "I kind of rolled round the last corner. ... Greipel just came past me and beat me."

Greipel comes across as mild and placid, so much so that his team told him to be more aggressive. The message seems to be sinking in.

"When I step off my bike I'm a really, really nice guy," Greipel said. "Of course, I have to learn to be a bit more aggressive on the bike. ... Actually, for the sprint you need this."

Greipel punched the air in delight as he crossed the line. On the podium, he looked tearful as he celebrated.

"It's the moment I've been waiting for all year," he said. "It's the most beautiful race in the world and the most famous." □



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U.S. divers believe they can compete with Chinese

JUSTIN BERGMAN

Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) —

American diver David Boudia believes the U.S. team can challenge China's stars for gold medals in their home pool at the world aquatic championships starting this weekend in Shanghai.

The U.S. has struggled to keep pace with China since the late 1980s, when four-time Olympic gold medalist Greg Louganis retired.

The Americans were shut out of the medals at the last two Olympics, while the Chinese captured 13 golds.

Boudia said the Americans are ready for the competition. He won a silver medal at the 2009 world championships in Rome in the 10-meter synchronized diving event with partner Thomas Finchum.

"Everyone around the world knows how domi-

nant the Chinese have been, but with that said, we're really ready for this competition," Boudia said. "The world championships always paints a different picture-you never know what's going to happen."

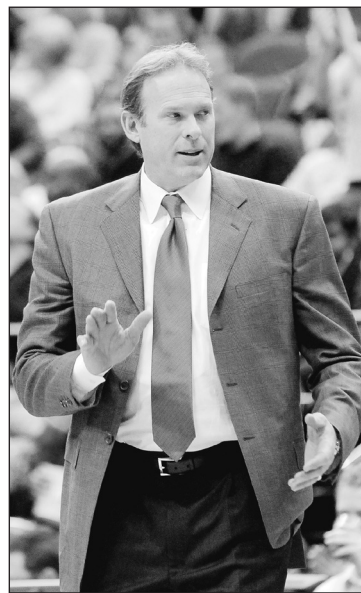
The U.S. finished a distant second to China in the diving medal count at the 2009 world championships, winning just four silvers to China's seven golds, four silvers and three bronzes.



U.S. divers, from left, David Boudia, Christina Loukas and Troy Dumais, pose with a bamboo-made scroll with Chinese characters "Shanghai" written on it, during a press conference sponsored by a Chinese sports outfit company Tuesday, July 12, 2011 in Shanghai, China. They are in Shanghai to compete in the 14th FINA World Swimming Championships starting from July 16

Associated Press

Timberwolves fire Kurt Rambis after 2 years



This April 13, 2011, file photo shows Minnesota Timberwolves head coach Kurt Rambis during a news conference after an NBA basketball game against the Houston Rockets, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

JON KRAWCZYNSKI

AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) —

The Minnesota Timberwolves fired Kurt Rambis on Tuesday, ending more than three months of uncertainty and awkwardness surrounding the head coach of the worst team in the NBA last season.

Rambis was 32-132 in his brief stay in Minnesota, including 17-65 this past season.

"I want to thank Kurt for his contributions to our franchise and wish him the best in his future endeavors," Wolves president of basketball operations David Kahn said in a statement issued by the team.

"His arrival signaled we were serious about build-

ing a championship-contending ballclub over the course of time.

We have accumulated a solid nucleus of young talent with a bright future during the last two years. I am hopeful Kurt receives his share of the credit for helping develop that talent and his contributions are not forgotten as we become a better basketball team." □

The Americans are not alone in chasing China. Canada, Germany, Britain, Australia and Italy have also emerged to contend for medals, though none has yet to challenge China's stranglehold on the sport.

In an attempt to boost their results, the Americans have sought to learn from the Chinese in recent years.

"If you look at our diving team now compared with four years ago going into Beijing, we've grown

tremendously," he said. It shows "how much help we've had, studying video from the Chinese, asking Chinese coaches to come over and help mentor us." Veteran Troy Dumais said he hopes the hard work finally pays off with a gold medal in his eighth — and last — world championships. The 31-year-old Dumais, who has four silvers and a bronze from prior world championships, plans to retire after the 2012 London Olympics. □

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Problem Child (ADD/ADHD/Autism)

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Some of you who were lucky enough to know me as a child might remember me as a child who required a disproportionate amount of attention or correction. Called a "problem child" by some and kindly described by the smarter ones of you who realize that I just wanted to "do my own thing". There are a group of boys; we are in our late fifties now, growing up in Aruba who I fondly remember as the "bad boys". Really bad? Not really, we were expressing our own budding individualism in healthy ways.

Unfortunately, today when we describe a boy who "requires a disproportionate amount of attention or correction" we are probably of talking about a boy suffering from developmental disorders such as Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or autism. This is bad. Worse, having to recognize that we are in an epidemic that conservatively affects 1 in 166 children; there are many more autistic boys than girls. 1 in 68 families have a child that needs a disproportionate amount of attention.

Epidemic? Yes, the incidence of autism has increased from 1 in 10,000 in the 1970s to 1 in 150 today, an increase of over 6,000%. Many more children are diagnosed with other neurodevelopmental disorders all considered to be on the same spectrum including Asperger's, ADHD/ADD, speech delay, autism and many other developmental and learning disabilities. This condition is so new that Tra-

ditional Chinese Medicine has no name for these conditions.

There are three distinctive behaviors that characterize these disorders. At the extreme end of the spectrum, autistic children have difficulties with social interaction, problems with verbal and nonverbal communication, and repetitive behaviors or narrow, obsessive interests. These behaviors can range in impact from mild to disabling.

The hallmark feature of autism is impaired social interaction. Parents are usually the first to notice symptoms of autism in their child. As early as infancy, a baby with autism may be unresponsive to people or focus intently on one item to the exclusion of others for long periods of time. A child with autism may appear to develop normally and then withdraw and become indifferent to social engagement. The normal development period has been noted to be up to when the child was immunized.

Childhood vaccinations, including flu shots, and even B-complex injections use Thimerosal as a preservative. Thimerosal is a mercury-containing organic compound. Since the 1930s, it has been widely used as a preservative in a number of biological and drug products, including many vaccines. For many medical researchers there is a direct link between the exposure of mercury, a widely known neurotoxin, and the increasing incidences of autism.

Since mercury is the most toxic heavy metal, in

our grass-roots clinic we started screening our child patients suffering from neurodevelopmental disorders for toxic heavy metals using head hair. Over the years we have realized what numerous scientists have that autism, autistic spectrum disorders and ADD have similar characteristics to those of chronic metal toxicity. Knowing that toxic metals disable a growing body and brain by producing chronic irritation, I started looking for all the culprits of chronic inflammation in these children.

Many of my articles are about the foundation of all degenerative diseases and conditions – chronic inflammation. The triad responsible for generating chronic inflammation in your body is: toxic heavy metals, bowel toxicities, and the wrong food for your metabolic or blood type. There is now a great deal of information available that tells us that toxic metals and chemicals such as mercury, lead, arsenic, cadmium, insecticides and pesticides are a causative factor in many cases of autism and ADD.

Inflammation in the brain is clearly a feature of autism, according to a study published November 2004, in Annals of Neurology, the scientific journal of the American Neurological Association. The researchers found strong evidence that certain immune system components that promote inflammation are consistently activated in people with autism.

Both of my boys are over six feet healthy guys, who have grown strong with-

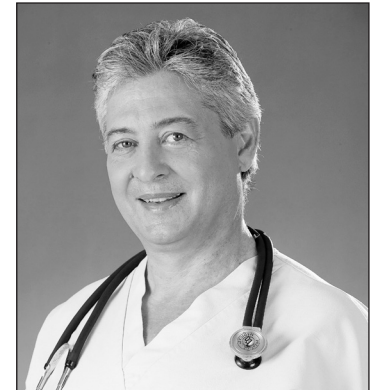
out cow's milk. Milk today would be dangerous if it is not pasteurized. However, the pasteurization process turns milk casein into a very dangerous molecule that inflames and injures the brain.

We have witnessed children with neurodevelopmental disorder symptoms caused as a result of malabsorption and intolerances to certain foods, especially dairy products and gluten contained in wheat and grain products. Some of our patients' parents have reported remarkable changes after the elimination of these foods from the diets of their children.

Consistently, we find strong indications of chronic inflammation in children exhibiting development problems. To treat their symptoms we feed our children foods that are compatible with their metabolic type, which they can digest, foods that do not cause constipation, foods that will give them back the bacterial environment to temper these inflammatory conditions.

Treatment should begin with a healthy diet, high in quality protein foods such as eggs, lean meat, vegetables and balanced essential oils. Hair tests can identify toxic heavy metals and blood tests can reveal the damage done by pesticides and insecticides.

Get The Point! Corresponding to the epidemic rise over the past decade treatments and therapies have been developed which greatly increase our ability to help children with developmental problems.



Many of our children recover or improve dramatically given the proper therapies. Understanding the options provide parents the tools needed to benefit our children. Need some tools to help your child? - Viana Natural Healing Center, Tel: (297-585-1270), www.viananaturalhealing.com

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio (The Barefoot Doctor), appears regularly on local TV and writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, (Monday's: Noord, Bubali 11M) TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

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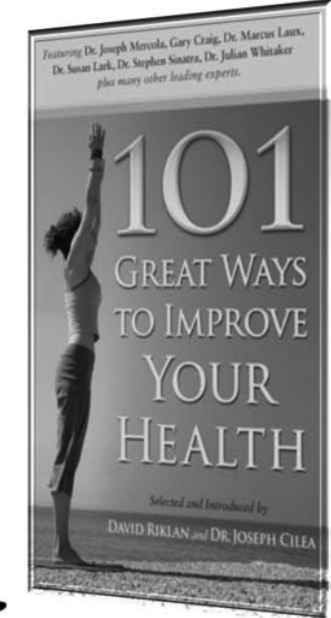
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Facebook teams with Time Warner to fight bullies

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Facebook and Time Warner are ganging up on bullies to address a problem that torments millions of children and young adults.

The partnership announced Tuesday calls for Facebook and Time Warner to use their clout to raise awareness about bullying and encourage more people to report the abuses when they see them.

Facebook's participation reflects a growing recognition that its online social network consisting of more than 750 million people has become an outlet for harassment as well as friendship.

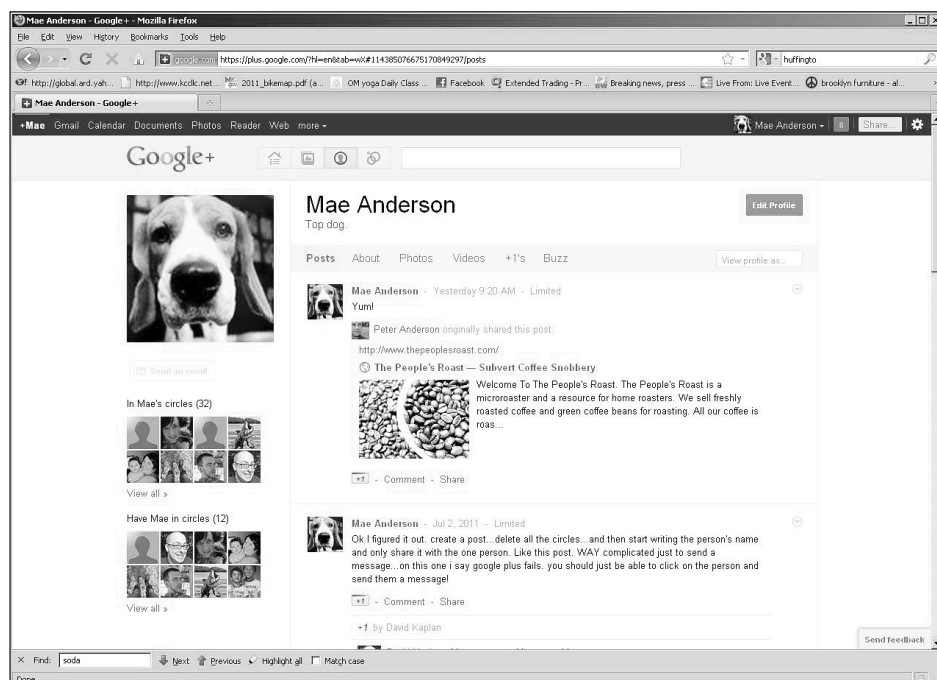
"We believe that by working together with parents and teachers, we can teach young people to speak up and stop bullying," said Sheryl Sandberg, Facebook's chief operating officer.

The anti-bullying campaign will be

waged on the Internet, on TV and radio and several major U.S. magazines. It's being billed as "Stop Bullying: Speak Up," a theme that Time Warner's Cartoon Network has been trumpeting since last year.

Now the message is being extended to Time Warner's CNN on TV and in three of its magazines, People, Time and Sports Illustrated. CNN's Anderson Cooper will host a town hall focused on bullying in October while the magazines will all delve into the topic during the same month.

By the time most kids return to school later this summer, Facebook plans to release a new application that will broadcast a user's pledge to stop bullies. Facebook already introduced a feature to make it easier to report online bullies, or "cyber" bullies, four months ago as part of a White House conference that President Barack Obama held on the topic.



This screen shot shows a page from Google Plus. As the online world turns social with Facebook leading the way, Google's new Plus service represents its best shot yet at muscling into a market that has threatened to topple the Internet search leader.

Associated Press

EU court sees responsibilities of online retailers

BRUSSELS (AP) — Online retailers like eBay Inc. can be held responsible for the infringement of trademarks by goods they sell, Europe's top court said Tuesday.

National courts can order online retailers to stop trademark infringement and prevent similar incidents in the future, the Luxembourg-based European Court of Justice said.

The ECJ's clarification of EU laws came in response to questions referred to the court by the High Court in London in 2009. The U.K.

court was seeking the ECJ's opinion in a case brought by French cosmetics company L'Oreal SA against eBay.

L'Oreal complained that some of its products that were not deemed for sale in Europe were being offered on eBay and that the retailer was not making enough of an effort to prevent such sales.

While the ECJ said it was up to national courts to decide whether there was an infringement and order it to be stopped, it said that

companies promoting the sale of goods online can be held responsible for what goes on on their websites.

"When the operator has played an active role' of that kind, it cannot rely on the exemption from liability which EU law confers, under certain conditions, on online service providers such as operators of internet marketplaces," the court said.

However, the court sided with eBay on one count, saying that online shopping sites are not using trademarks if they allow customers to display brand signs on their web-

sites.

should be allowed to buy brand names as keywords for online ads on services like Google.

The ECJ's clarification could act as a reference in similar cases that have been brought against eBay by other companies complaining about counterfeits and trademark infringement.

But eBay Europe's senior director for government relations said Stefan Krawczyk that the judgment "provides some clarity on certain issues, and ensures that all brands can be traded online in Europe." □

The White House estimates that 13 million students, or nearly one-third of the school-age population in the U.S., are targets of bullying. In a 2009 survey by The Associated Press and MTV, half of the people from 14 to 24 years said they had been cyberbullied.

The harassment, ranging from a person's sexual orientation to their fashion tastes, can lead to emotional problems, drug abuse and, in extreme instances, suicide.

Other media outlets catering to young people have also adopted anti-bullying stances. For example, Viacom Inc.'s Nickelodeon television network unveiled a public service campaign advising its target audience of children ages 2 to 14 on how to counter taunting texts, emails and Facebook posts. □

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Tournament starts at 6:30pm	Bad Beat promotions for Tournaments \$15,000,- Jackpot, Aces full of tens beaten by 4 of a kind or better Four of a kind \$50 - Straight Flush \$100 - Royal Flush \$250 Two cards in hand must play and you have to go to the river		
Wednesday	FREE Tournament for players th played in the week.Cash or Tourney. Buy-in \$10 for 800 chip	Rebuys \$26 for 2200 chips	Add-on: \$32 for 4000 chips guaranteed \$1000 in Cash Prize (based on 35 players or more)
Tournament starts at 6:30pm	FRIDAY 7:00 PM	Sit and Go Buy in:\$50+\$10 3000 chips	Winner takes it all
Saturday Sunday	Buyin \$25 For 1000 chips	Rebuys \$26 3max. p.p. For 1200 chips.	Add-on \$32 1p.p. For 4000 chips
Tournament starts at 7:00pm			
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Cash-Games 6:00pm		Royal Flush \$500 Two card in hand must play until the river	
Management reserves the right to change,alter or cancel any Tournament.			



Netflix rates rise up to 60 pct for DVD, streaming

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer | SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Netflix is raising its prices by as much as 60 percent for millions of subscribers who want to rent DVDs by mail and watch video on the Internet.

The company is separating the two options so that subscribers who want both will have to buy separate plans totaling at least \$16 per month. Netflix Inc. had been bundling both options in a single package, available for as low as \$10 per month.

New subscribers will have to pay the new prices immediately. The changes take effect Sept. 1 for Netflix's current customers. Netflix isn't changing the \$8 monthly price for an Internet streaming-only option, which the company began offering late last year. But instead of charging \$2 more for a plan that also offers one DVD at a time by mail, the company will charge \$8 for a comparable DVD-only plan. That brings the total to \$16.

Those who want to rent up to two DVDs at a time with streaming will pay \$20 per month, or 33 percent more. Those wanting three DVDs at a time with streaming will pay \$24 per month, or 20 percent more.

When Netflix unveiled the streaming-only option, it also raised the rates for its most popular DVD rental plans by \$1 to \$3 per month. Those plans included unlimited online streaming too, as had been the case since Netflix began sending video over high-speed Internet connections in 2007. That means longtime subscribers who want both entertainment options will get their second price increase in eight months. Netflix's willingness to risk alienating subscribers signals that it needs to bring in more money to cover its rising costs.

The company's earnings would likely be squeezed if it continued to cover the overhead for buying and shipping the discs while also spending heavily to license more video for its



In this file photo made July 20, 2010, a Netflix customer holds up a movie in Palo Alto, Calif.

streaming library. In the first three months of this year, Netflix spent \$192 million on streaming rights after pouring \$406 million into the library last year.

Jessie Becker, Netflix's vice president of marketing, wrote Tuesday on Netflix's blog that charging just \$2 more for a bundled plan "neither makes great finan-

cial sense nor satisfies people who just want DVDs."

On the flip side, Netflix customers who haven't embraced Internet streaming will be getting a price break. They can now subscribe to a DVD-only plan for just \$8 per month for one DVD at a time, a 20 percent reduction from the current package that included streaming. □

BUSINESS BRIEFS

News Corp. boosts stock buyback

NEW YORK (AP) — News Corp. says its board has raised its stock repurchase program to \$5 billion.

That's up from the \$1.8 billion that's still left in the media conglomerate's existing program. News Corp. said on Tuesday that it plans to repurchase \$5 billion of its Class A and Class B common stock over the next 12 months. News Corp.'s stock rose 29 cents, or 1.9 percent, to \$15.77 in morning trading following the announcement. When companies buy back stock, it tends to increase the value of remaining shares.

The stock had taken a hit this month amid a deepening phone-hacking scandal involving News Corp.'s now-shuttered News of the World tabloid. □

Microsoft, Yell form partnership

REDMOND, Washington (AP) — Microsoft Corp. and U.K.-based marketing services provider Yell Group PLC are teaming up to provide online advertising and business services to small and medium-sized businesses, the companies said on Tuesday.

Financial terms were not disclosed.

Yell provides print and digital marketing services to more than 1.3 million customers across the U.S., U.K., Spain and Latin America. The companies said they are working together to offer search, mobile and local advertising products and services to small and medium businesses.

Microsoft will also help Yell speed up its new cloud-based offerings. The "cloud" refers to applications and data hosted on remote servers and accessed over the Internet.

Shares of Microsoft slipped 13 cents to \$26.50 in pre-market trading. □



Denise Morrison stands in the lobby of the Campbell Soup Co. headquarters in Camden, N.J., Tuesday, July 12, 2011. Morrison, who takes over as CEO on Aug. 1 after Douglas Conant steps down, outlined a new approach Tuesday that entails adding products, changing recipes and expanding internationally.

Associated Press

Campbell Soup lifts 2011 profit outlook

GEOFF MULVIHILL

Associated Press

CAMDEN, New Jersey (AP) — Campbell Soup Co. is raising its fiscal 2011 adjusted earnings outlook, but the world's largest soup maker provided a somewhat disappointing forecast for next year, saying it's going to focus on investments to improve its products.

The guidance came shortly before Campbell held a meeting with analysts on Tuesday, during which incoming president and CEO Denise Morrison laid out her vision for the food company.

Morrison, who will take the helm on Aug. 1 when Douglas Conant steps down after more than a decade, said she wants to build up U.S. sales to Hispanic consumers and millennials, the generation born after 1979.

"These consumers have no intrinsic barrier to soup as a food," Morrison said in a talk in which she acknowledged some company missteps in recent years. "They love soup. But many of them don't connect with our soup products." She said the company will focus less on pushing the volume of sales of its condensed soups — something that's been a struggle in the past two years. In the first nine months of the company's current fiscal year, U.S. soup sales are down 5 percent.

Instead the company plans to launch high-end soups, among other changes that include broadening its range of food choices. The company plans to bring back some higher-sodium soups after several years of working to reduce sodium, sometimes at the expense of taste. Additionally, Campbell, which already has expanded its V8 juice line, launching energy drinks and smoothies in some markets, plans to broaden those offerings.

In another shift, Campbell, which is known for its red and white soup cans, also plans to grow internationally by buying and partnering with existing companies, particularly in Asia and Latin America.

Campbell said that it anticipates fiscal 2011 adjusted earnings will rise about 1 percent from 2010 adjusted results of \$2.47 per share. Its prior guidance was for adjusted earnings to fall 1 percent to 3 percent. Revenue is still expected to be essentially flat.

Analysts surveyed by FactSet predict 2011 earnings of \$2.45 per share on revenue of \$7.69 billion.

For 2012, Campbell expects adjusted earnings will decline 4 percent to 6 percent, with revenue flat to up 2 percent. Analysts expect full-year earnings of \$2.49 per share on revenue of \$7.89 billion.

The soup maker gave a long-term outlook for annual adjusted earnings growth between 5 percent and 7 percent and a revenue increase in the range of 3 percent to 4 percent. □

Markets may turn turbulent waiting for debt deal

MATTHEW CRAFT

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Financial markets have largely ignored the debt limit talks so far. They are reacting instead to concerns about debt in Europe and dismal employment numbers in the U.S.

But that's bound to change as Washington gets closer to maxing out its self-imposed borrowing limit

of \$14.3 trillion on Aug. 2. Analysts and investors expect Congressional Republicans and President Barack Obama will agree to raise the U.S.'s borrowing limit and cut spending before the deadline. Many of those same people also believe the haggling will go on until the last minute.

"If they take it to the brink, it'll be a dangerous game of chicken," said Tony

FCC seeks to crack down on phone bill mystery fees

By **JOELLE TESSLER**

AP Technology Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal regulators are proposing new rules to make it easier for consumers to detect and challenge mystery fees on their phone bills.

The Federal Communications Commission voted Tuesday to seek public comments on the proposed rules, which are intended to crack down on the practice of "cramming." Cramming is the illegal placement of unauthorized fees on a consumer's phone bill — either by the phone company or an outside party.

These fraudulent charges are usually buried inside phone bills and generally appear under generic descriptions such as minute use fee, activation, member fee, voice mail or Web hosting. Often just a few dollars, they can be easy to overlook.

The FCC vote came a day before a Senate hearing on the issue.

The proposed FCC rules would require landline phone companies to place third-party charges in a separate section of phone bills and to notify consumers whether they offer the option of blocking such charges. The notification must be given when consumers sign up for service, and must appear online and on their bills.

The proposed rules also would require both landline and wireless carriers to notify consumers that they can file complaints about cramming with the FCC. Phone companies must provide the agency's contact information.

In addition, the FCC will consider whether to require landline phone companies to offer services that block third-party fees and whether to prohibit them from charging for such services. It also will consider whether to require landline phone companies to automatically block third-party fees from consumer bills altogether.

The agency will consider whether to extend cramming rules that apply to landline companies to wireless carriers and Internet calling services as well.

The commission estimates that as many as 15 million to 20 million American households have mystery fees on their monthly landline phone bills every year. Cramming is also an emerging problem for wireless customers, the agency said.

Tuesday's vote is part of a broader effort by the FCC to combat mystery fees.

Last year, the agency reached a record settlement with Verizon Wireless over \$1.99-a-megabyte data access fees that appeared on the bills of customers who didn't have data plans but accidentally initiated data or Internet sessions by pressing a button on their phones. Verizon Wireless agreed to pay \$25 million to the government and at least \$52.8 million in customer refunds under the settlement. □



In this June 2, 2011 photo, American flags are displayed on the New York Stock Exchange in New York.

Associated Press

Crescenzi, a market strategist at bond-fund giant Pimco.

Many investors are preparing for a potential default before time runs out.

Then there's the matter of what happens after a deal is reached. The scenarios Wall Street economists have come up with for life after Aug. 2 aren't exactly rosy. The concern, say analysts at Barclays, is the deep spending cuts that will accompany any agreement to raise the U.S. debt limit. Federal spending accounts for 8 percent of gross domestic product, a broad measure of the economy.

A debt limit agreement that includes cutting \$2 trillion in spending is sure to weigh on the recovery. Goldman Sachs economists say it could shave 0.8 percentage points off economic growth next year.

So what should you expect to see in stock, bond, and currency markets as the days tick by? Preparation for disaster.

With 10-year Treasury yields at 2.90 percent on Tuesday afternoon, government borrowing rates are near their lows for the year. At current rates, traders are still treating Treasuries as one of the world's safest investments. It's no wonder. Rising unemployment and Europe's widening debt crisis have drawn investors

to U.S. government bonds, sending prices higher and yields lower.

Treasury yields tend to fall on dire news and rise on signs of economic strength. But as Aug. 2 gets closer U.S. government debt prices may fall, driving up interest rates.

One trigger to watch: Short-term Treasury bills. Yields have been near historic lows — close to zero. That could change.

Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service may renew warnings that they will reconsider the country's coveted AAA credit rating, says Guy LeBas, chief fixed income strategist at Janney Morgan Scott. That could happen as soon as next week. When it does, rates on short-term Treasury bills could spike because the government has to pay them off every week, making these T-bills riskier. LeBas and others don't think the debt ceiling will be lifted until the very last minute, making such a spike all the more likely.

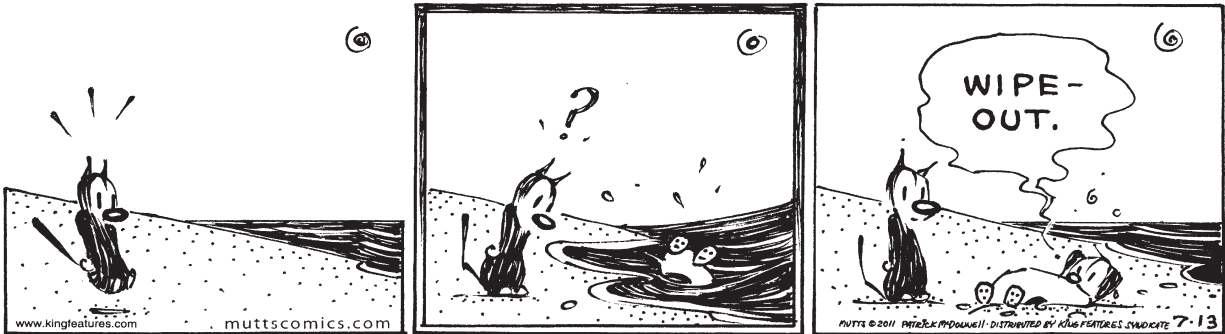
Problems in the Treasury market could quickly spill into banks and money-market funds. That could create a short-term credit crunch as fears mount over how many bonds each bank holds. Banks are among the largest buyers of Treasuries. They also use Treasury

bills to back money-market funds.

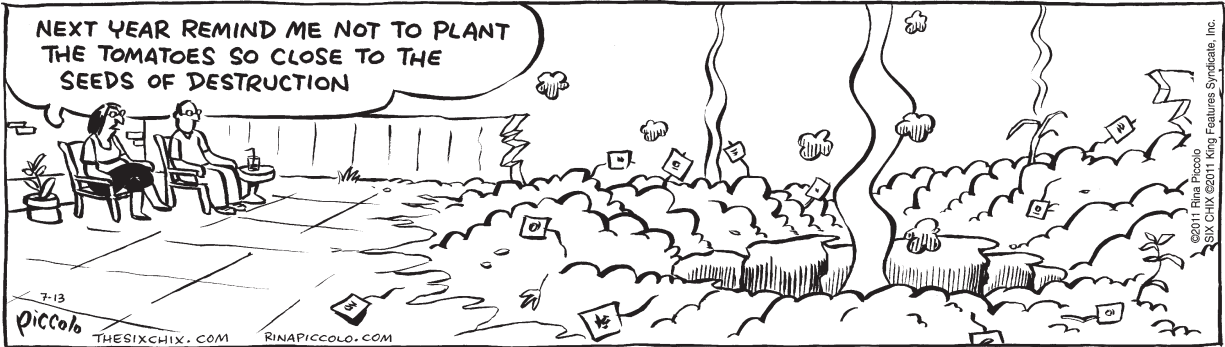
Stocks and corporate bonds, which have benefited from rising earnings and low interest rates over the last year, will likely take a harder hit. The dollar may also sink against other currencies, Crescenzi says, as traders attempt to shield themselves from the fallout. For the next two weeks, the parade of companies reporting second-quarter earnings will consume the stock market's attention, says John Canally, investment strategist at LPL Financial. "But if we're here on July 25 and nothing is getting done, that's when I'd say the equity markets start to pay attention," Canally says.

A sharp bond-market move could also spur a stock-market selloff that could resemble the summer of 2008. Back then, banks, energy companies, and material producers fell more than the overall market. Companies that deal in consumer staples fared the best since most people will cut spending on luxuries before paring back purchases of macaroni and bath soap. When a deal is reached to raise the debt ceiling, expect to see markets celebrate with a "relief rally." Stocks will likely jump as the fear of a U.S. default disappears, Crescenzi says. □

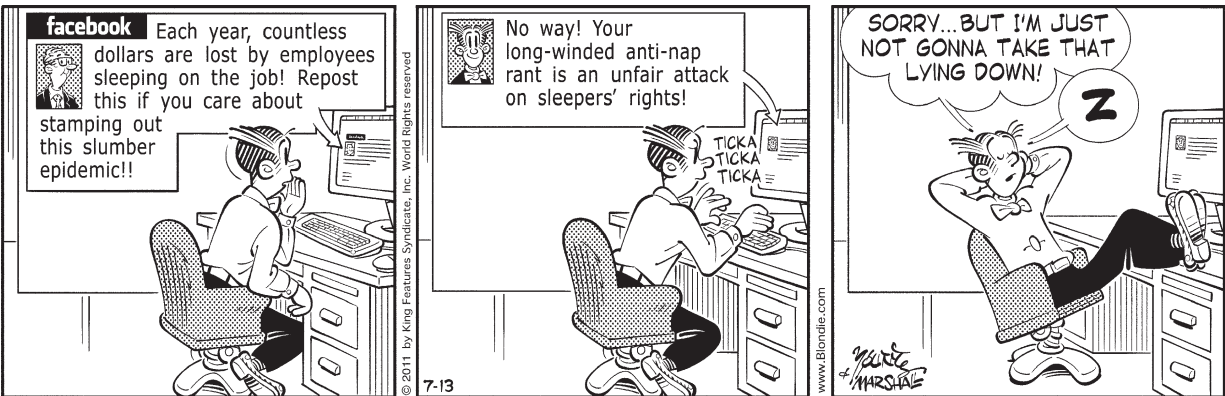
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		4	2					
				6				
		9	8	7	5	3		
	5			1			6	
2								1
7								8
6								7
	1			4			5	
		8	9		2	4		

Difficulty Level ★★★

7/13

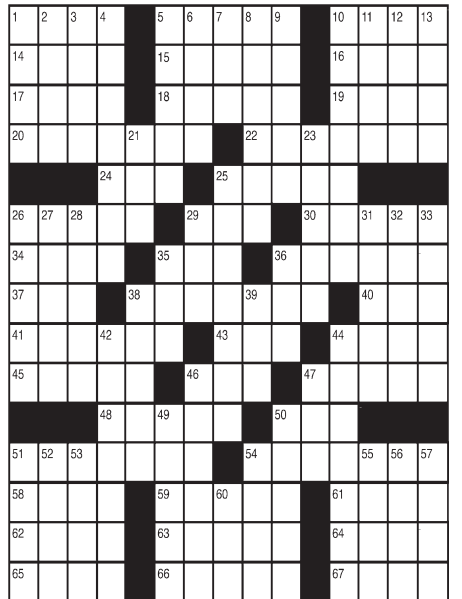
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

5	8	9	6	4	3	1	7	2
4	1	6	5	7	2	8	3	9
7	3	2	9	1	8	4	5	6
6	5	1	4	9	7	3	2	8
8	9	3	2	5	6	7	1	4
2	4	7	8	3	1	6	9	5
1	6	8	7	2	5	9	4	3
9	7	5	3	8	4	2	6	1
3	2	4	1	6	9	5	8	7

ACROSS

- 1 "When You — Upon a Star"
- 5 African nation
- 10 Clamors
- 14 Tiny amount
- 15 High-intensity beam
- 16 Concept
- 17 Trade
- 18 Each __; one another
- 19 Pub orders
- 20 Traditional ring spot
- 22 Los Angeles ballplayers
- 24 Lamb's mother
- 25 More modern
- 26 Waterbirds
- 29 Nourished
- 30 Home of logs
- 34 Long, slimy fishes
- 35 Present topper
- 36 Fragrant hair dressing
- 37 "All bets __ off"
- 38 Baby's room
- 40 European lang.
- 41 Wealth
- 43 Spring month
- 44 Go first
- 45 Arrange
- 46 Distant
- 47 Chops down
- 48 Singer Bobby
- 50 Tiny vegetable
- 51 Deals with
- 54 Pagets
- 58 Wickedness
- 59 Pains
- 61 __ the Terrible
- 62 White fish
- 63 Discourage through fear
- 64 Pianist Peter
- 65 Wonder-struck
- 66 Luge vehicles
- 67 Expanded



7/13/11

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

SERVE	APAR	DAFT
PREEN	MENU	EWER
AGENT	EATS	CANE
TOLERANT	SPLICE	
HEELS	BELATED	
CONRAD	ALTAR	
ARE	TEASE	NECKS
SCAM	RISES	DONE
SATES	MEDAL	LIT
AIDES	BEGETS	
PLANTED	MEAL	
HOLDER	PERSISTS	
ANTE	IDEA	IDAHO
SEER	DONT	NEVER
ERRS	ENDS	GREET

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7/13/11

DOWN

- 1 Intelligent
- 2 Des Moines, __
- 3 Celebrity
- 4 Unfortunate
- 5 Sphere of the world
- 6 Abhor
- 7 Bit of soot
- 8 Required
- 9 Bow and __; Cupid's props
- 10 Useful chart
- 11 Lazing about
- 12 __do-well; loser
- 13 Talk back
- 21 Be in the red
- 23 Hunter's lure
- 25 Cronkite or Brokaw
- 26 __ up; gets ready
- 27 Spooky
- 28 Vote into office
- 29 In favor of
- 31 Baked, donut-shaped roll
- 32 Perfect
- 33 Bookish types
- 35 Public transport
- 36 Use a lever
- 38 Kathmandu's country
- 39 In one __ and out the other

- 42 Crowded together, as football players
- 44 Jumping
- 46 Monetary
- 47 Charge
- 49 __ up on; studies
- 50 Nuisances

- 51 "For __ jolly good fellow..."
- 52 Declare openly
- 53 Longest river
- 54 Stoop
- 55 At any time
- 56 Unusual
- 57 Winter flakes
- 60 Color

Associated Press

(AP) — Astronauts making the last spacewalk of NASA's space shuttle era on Tuesday retrieved a broken pump from the Interna-

The space station's two-armed robot Dextre won't tackle the \$22.6 million playset — a fancy Fisher-Price toy as one astronaut

The two paused during their spacewalk to admire

The robotic workbench — which the astronauts attached to a shelf on Dex-

NASA is turning to private enterprise in the post-shuttle period, so it can meet the White House goal of sending astronauts to an asteroid by 2025 and Mars the decade after that. □

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U.S. singer Lady Gaga gives a press conference ahead of her showcase concert at the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore. Gaga may have surprised fans with two unexpected gigs in Australia, but don't expect a third free show.

(AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

Police:

No more free shows by Gaga

SYDNEY (AP) — Lady Gaga may have surprised fans with two unexpected gigs in Australia, but don't expect a third free show.

Police are urging ticketless fans not to throng the downtown Sydney area on Wednesday night, when she is scheduled to perform at a private concert for invited guests only.

"If you don't have a ticket, stay at home," said Superintendent Mark Walton, the police commander of the city's central district. "Don't waste your time coming to town and stand out in the cold to look at a sandstone wall." He said Lady Gaga will not be making a public appearance before or after the concert, and it will not be broadcast on live screens outside the venue. "Parents are urged to not allow their children to attend the city if they don't have a ticket," he said in a statement Tuesday.

The American pop singer drew more than 1,000 fans to Oxford Street in downtown Sydney when she gave unscheduled performances at two gay clubs, Nevermind and ARQ, on Monday night. She let her fans know about her impromptu plans via Twitter, where she has 11.5 million followers. Fans queued for up to seven hours to see the singer perform three songs from her latest album — "Born This Way," "The Edge of Glory" and "Judas" — at both venues. □

Sherwood Schwartz

Creator of 'Brady Bunch,' 'Gilligan's Island' dies

DENISE PETSKE

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sherwood Schwartz, writer-creator of two of the best-remembered TV series of the 1960s and 1970s, "Gilligan's Island" and "The Brady Bunch," has died at age 94.

Great niece Robin Randall said Schwartz died at 4 a.m. Tuesday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where he was being treated for an intestinal infection and underwent several surgeries. His wife, Mildred, and children had been at his side.

Sherwood Schwartz and his brother, Al, started as a writing team in TV's famed 1950s "golden age," said Douglas Schwartz, the late Al Schwartz's son.

"They helped shape television in its early days," Douglas Schwartz said. "Sherwood is an American classic, creating 'Brady Bunch' and 'Gilligan's Island,' iconic shows that are still popular today. He continued to produce all the way up into his 90s."

Sherwood Schwartz was working on a big-screen version of "Gilligan's Island," his nephew said. Douglas Schwartz, who created the hit series "Baywatch," called his uncle a longtime mentor and caring "second father" who helped guide him successfully through show business. Success was the hallmark of Sherwood Schwartz's own career. Neither "Gilligan" nor "Brady" pleased the critics, but both managed to reverberate in viewers' heads through the years as few such series did, lingering in the language and inspiring parodies, spinoffs and countless standup comedy jokes.

Schwartz had given up a career in medical science to write jokes for Bob Hope's radio show. He went on to write for other radio and TV shows, including "The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet."

He dreamed up "Gilligan's Island" in 1964. It was a Robinson Crusoe story about seven disparate travelers

who are marooned on a deserted Pacific Island after their small boat wrecks in a storm. The cast: Alan Hale Jr., as Skipper Jonas Grumby; Bob Denver, as his klutzy assistant Gilligan; Jim Backus and Natalie Schafer, the rich snobs Thurston and Lovey Howell; Tina Louise, the bosomy movie

gag-ridden corn. Audiences adored its far-out comedy. Schwartz insisted that the show had social meaning along with the laughs: "I knew that by assembling seven different people and forcing them to live together, the show would have great philosophical implications."

to know who said it. If you can't do that, the show will fail."

"Gilligan's Island" lasted on CBS from 1964 to 1967, and it was revived in later seasons with three high-rated TV movies. A children's cartoon, "The New Adventures of Gilligan," appeared on ABC from 1974 to 1977, and in 2004, Schwartz had a hand in producing a TBS reality show called "The Real Gilligan's Island."

The name of the boat on "Gilligan's Island" — the S.S. Minnow — was a bit of TV inside humor: It was named for Newton Minnow, who as Federal Communications Commission chief in the early 1960s had become famous for proclaiming television "a vast wasteland." Minnow took the gibe in good humor, saying later that he had a friendly correspondence with Schwartz.

TV writers usually looked upon "The Brady Bunch" as a sugarcoated view of American family life.

The premise: a widow (Florence Henderson) with three daughters marries a widower (Robert Reed) with three sons. (Widowhood was a common plot point in TV series back then, since networks were leery of divorce.) During the 1970s when the nation was rocked by social turmoil, audiences seemed comforted by watching an attractive, well-scrubbed family engaged in trivial pursuits.

Schwartz claimed in 1995 that his creation had social significance because "it dealt with real emotional problems: the difficulty of being the middle girl; a boy being too short when he wants to be taller; going to the prom with zits on your face." The series lasted from 1969 to 1974, but it had an amazing afterlife. It was followed by three one-season spinoffs: "The Brady Bunch Hour" (1977), "The Brady Brides" (1981) and "The Bradys" (1990). "The Brady Bunch Movie," with Shelley Long and Gary Cole as the parents, was a surprise box-office hit in 1995. □



In this March 7, 2008 file photo, Writer/producer Sherwood Schwartz reacts during a ceremony where he was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles. Schwartz, who created "Gilligan's Island" and "The Brady Bunch" died Tuesday, July 12, 2011. He was 94.

(AP Photo/Nick Ut, file)

star Ginger Grant; Russell Johnson, egghead science professor Roy Hinkley Jr.; and Dawn Wells, sweet-natured farm girl Mary Ann Summers.

Calling "Gilligan's Island" a "family," Tina Louise tweeted that "Sherwood Schwartz brought laughter and comfort to millions of people." In her Twitter post she added, "He will be in our hearts forever." TV critics hooted at "Gilligan's Island" as

He argued that his sitcoms didn't rely on cheap laughs. "I think writers have become hypnotized by the number of jokes on the page at the expense of character," Schwartz said in a 2000 Associated Press interview.

"When you say the name Gilligan, you know who that is. If a show is good, if it's written well, you should be able to erase the names of the characters saying the lines and still be able



In this photo, Mila Kunis arrives at the Spike TV Guys Choice Awards in Culver City, Calif. A Marine's YouTube request to go on a date with Mila Kunis got through to the actress.

(AP Photo/Dan Steinberg)

Mila Kunis gives definitive "yes"

SANDY COHEN
AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Thanks to the power of the Internet, a Marine's YouTube request to go on a date with Mila Kunis got through to the actress, who said yes.

In a recent Fox News interview, the 27-year-old "Black Swan" star was asked whether she knew about Sgt. Scott Moore's video asking her to accompany him to the Marine Corps Ball in Greenville, North Carolina, in November. The annual event marks the founding of the Marines in 1775.

"Hey Mila. It's Sergeant Moore, but you can call me Scott," he said from a base in Afghanistan. "I just wanted to take a moment out of my day to invite you to the Marine Corps Ball on November 18th in Greenville, North Carolina, with yours truly. So take a second, think about it and get back to me."

Kunis reacted with surprise and asked for details about the event during the Fox News interview. After her "Friends With Benefits" co-star, Justin Timberlake, goaded her to fulfill her patriotic duties, Kunis said she would go.

"We're going to make this happen, sir," she said, looking into the camera. "I'm with you."

Details on whether Kunis has taken additional steps to confirm she would attend the ball remained unclear. Her publicist, Melissa Raubvogel, had no comment Tuesday.

Moore, who is serving in Afghanistan, said that though he has not communicated with the actress, "I have heard back from her people."

"I'm very excited about the opportunity to share the experience with Ms. Kunis and would like to thank her for accepting my offer," said the Marine data systems technician. □

Dissident Chinese writer ecstatic after fleeing to Germany

ANDREW JACOBS

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BEIJING — After being denied an exit visa 17 times, yanked off planes and trains by the police and threatened with yet more prison time, one of China's most persecuted writers, Liao Yiwu, slipped across the border into Vietnam last week and then made his way, via Poland, to Germany, where he promptly declared himself an exile.

"I'm ecstatic, I'm finally free," he said in a telephone interview from Berlin on Monday morning before plunging into a day of interviews and photo shoots. "I feel like I'm walking through a dream." Of course, his escape — arranged by friends who he declined to name — has not brought unadulterated joy. By fleeing his homeland, Liao, 52, made the difficult decision to abandon the wellspring of his work, much of it journalistic explorations of China's downtrodden: the political outcasts, impoverished farmers, death row inmates and others who have been traumatized by famine and communist-inspired zealotry, then cast aside during the nation's manic embrace of material wealth and collective amnesia.

He also leaves behind his family in southwestern Sichuan province, including his mother, his son, two siblings and a girlfriend. "I'm trying to convince myself that I won't be away from China very long, that things will change sooner than later," he said.

In the West, Liao is best known for "The Corpse Walker: Real Life Stories: China from the Bottom Up," which was banned in China soon after it was published in Taiwan in 2001. The book, a collection of interviews with people he encountered in prison and during wanderings in the southwest, tells the unadorned stories of 27 people, among them a public toilet attendant, a

persecuted landlord, and the men, known as corpse walkers, whose job it is to transport the dead back to their hometowns for burial. After it was published, his already strained relationship with the authorities worsened. He was barred from traveling to literary festivals in Germany, Australia and the United States and was forced last spring to sign a vow to cease publishing

cracking down on scores of activists and rights lawyers in February. The most prominent victim has been Ai Weiwei, the caustic artist and social critic. "I think Liao Yiwu's decision to leave really reflects the extreme unease that writers in China are facing right now," said Larry Siems, director of international programs at the PEN American Center, an advocacy group. "It's a shame, because he is one



Liao Yiwu, a Chinese writer, in Berlin, July 11, 2011. After being denied an exit visa 17 times and threatened with more prison time, Liao slipped across the border into Vietnam last week and then made his way, via Poland, to Germany, where he declared himself an exile.

(Gordon Welters/The New York Times)

outside China. Breaking the pledge, he was warned cryptically, would bring even greater torment.

Given the predicament of his friend Liu Xiaobo, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and writer who is serving an 11-year sentence for subversion, Liao knew what might await him. The threat gained greater urgency with the impending publication in the United States of "God is Red," a book by Liao about Chinese Christians, and a memoir about his time in jail, "The Witness of the 4th of June." The memoir, whose title refers to the military suppression of the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989, has been delayed several times by skittish publishers in Germany and Taiwan.

His most recent travails are part of a wholesale stifling of creative expression and dissent by the ruling Communist Party. Rattled by turmoil in the Arab world, the government began

of China's most interesting writers, and he has his eyes on some of the great human dramas that accompany China's emergence as an economic power. China should be unleashing the imagination of its writers instead of trying to restrain and control them."

The Chinese government has yet to respond to news of his escape. The public security bureau in his hometown would not discuss his case; calls and emails to the Chinese Embassy in Berlin were not returned. Like many of his generation, Liao has endured a numbing cascade of hardships. He nearly starved to death as an infant during Mao Zedong's disastrous Great Leap Forward, when famine claimed tens of millions of lives. As a child, he and his classmates were forced out of school by the Cultural Revolution, the decade in which education was maligned as a bourgeois indulgence. □

No, we can't? Or won't?



PAUL KRUGMAN

If you were shocked by Friday's job report, if you thought we were doing well and were taken aback by the bad news, you haven't been paying attention. The fact is, the U.S. economy has been stuck in a rut for a year and a half. Yet a destructive passivity has overtaken our discourse. Turn on your TV and you'll see some self-satisfied pundit declaring that nothing much can be done about the economy's short-run problems (reminder: This "short run" is now in its fourth year), that we should focus on the long run instead. This gets things exactly wrong. The truth is that creating jobs in a depressed economy is something government could and should be doing. Yes, there are huge political obstacles to action – notably, the fact that the House is controlled by a party that benefits from the economy's weakness. But political gridlock should not be conflated with economic reality. Our failure to create jobs is a choice, not a necessity – a choice rationalized by an ever-shifting set of excuses.

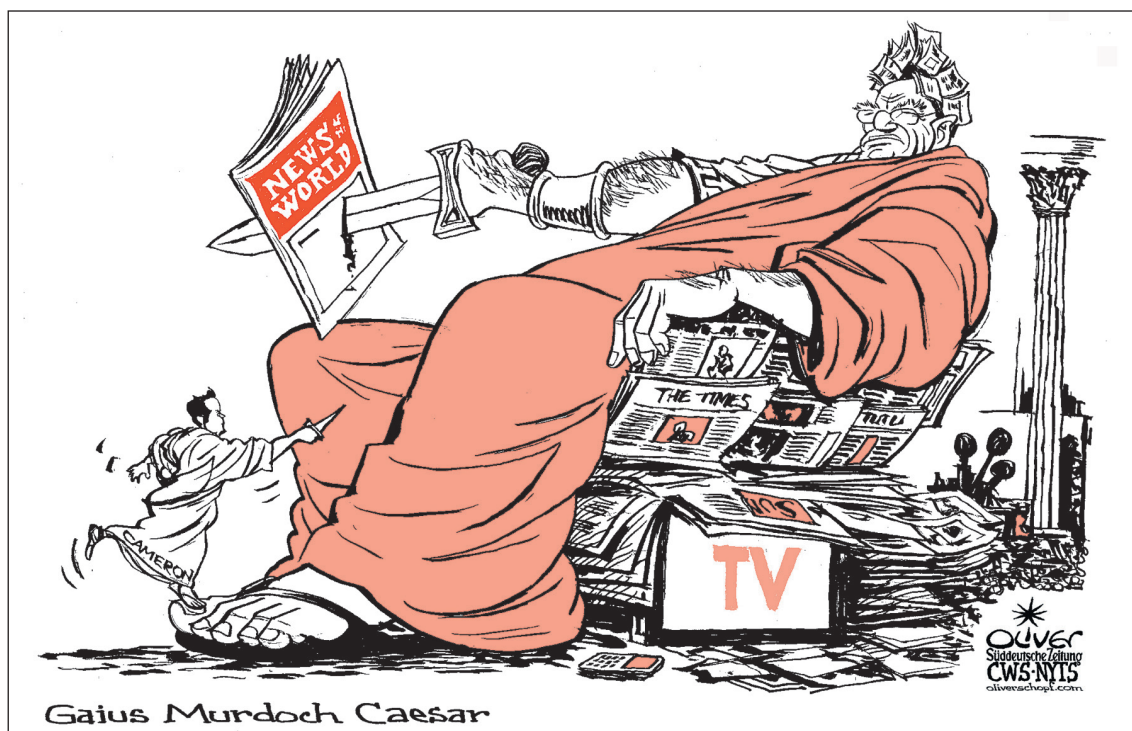
— Excuse No.1: Just around the corner, there's a rainbow in the sky. Remember "green shoots"? Remember the "summer of recovery"? Policymakers keep declaring that the economy is on the mend – and Lucy keeps snatching the football away. Yet these delusions of recovery have been an excuse for doing nothing as the jobs crisis festers.

— Excuse No.2: Fear the bond market. Two years ago The Wall Street Journal declared that interest rates on U.S. debt would soon soar unless Washington stopped trying to fight the economic slump. Ever since, warnings about the imminent attack of the "bond vigilantes" have been used to attack any spending on job creation. But basic economics said that rates would stay low as long as the economy was depressed – and basic economics was right. The interest rate on 10-year bonds was 3.7 percent when The Wall Street Journal issued that warning; at the end of last week it was 3.03 percent. How have the usual suspects responded? By inventing their own reality. Last week, Rep. Paul Ryan, the man behind the GOP plan to dismantle Medicare, declared that we must slash government spending to "take pressure off the interest rates" – the same pressure, I suppose, that has pushed those rates to

near-record lows.

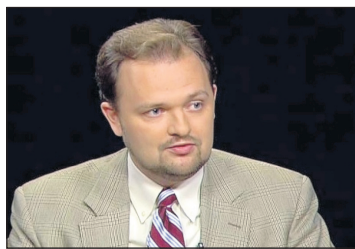
— Excuse No.3: It's the workers' fault. Unemployment soared during the financial crisis and its aftermath. So it seems bizarre to argue that the real problem lies with the workers – that the millions of Americans who were working four years ago but aren't working now somehow lack the skills the economy needs. Yet that's what you hear from many pundits these days: High unemployment is "structural," they say, and requires long-term solutions (which means, in practice, doing nothing). Well, if there really was a mismatch between the workers we have and the workers we need, workers who do have the right skills, and are therefore able to find jobs, should be getting big wage increases. They aren't. In fact, average wages actually fell last month.

— Excuse No.4: We tried to stimulate the economy, and it didn't work. Everybody knows that President Barack Obama tried to stimulate the economy with a huge increase in government spending, and that it didn't work. But what everyone knows is wrong. Think about it: Where are the big public works projects? Where are the armies of government workers? There are actually half a million fewer government employees now than there were when Obama took office. So what happened to the stimulus? Much of it consisted of tax cuts, not spending. Most of the rest consisted either of aid to distressed families or aid to hard-pressed state and local governments. This aid may have mitigated the slump, but it wasn't the kind of job-creation program we could and should have had. This isn't 20-20 hindsight: some of us warned from the beginning that tax cuts would be ineffective and that the proposed spending was woefully inadequate. And so it proved. It's also worth noting that in another area where government could make a big difference – help for troubled homeowners – almost nothing has been done. The Obama administration's program of mortgage relief has gone nowhere: Of \$46 billion allotted to help families stay in their homes, less than \$2 billion has actually been spent. So let's summarize: The economy isn't fixing itself. Nor are there real obstacles to government action: Both the bond vigilantes and structural unemployment exist only in the imaginations of pundits. And if economic stimulus seems to have failed, it's because it was never actually tried. Listening to what supposedly serious people say about the economy, you'd think the problem was "no, we can't." But the reality is "no, we won't." And every pundit who reinforces that destructive passivity is part of the problem. □



Gaius Murdoch Caesar

The method to their madness



ROSS DOUTHAT

The Republican Party's strategy in the debt-ceiling negotiations has baffled centrists and vindicated liberals. For months, the party's leaders have repeatedly turned down deals that would cut spending significantly because their members won't compromise on taxes. To moderates, this intransigence is inexplicable: Are they crazy? To the left, it's all-too-predictable: See, we told you they were crazy! But there is a method to the Republicans' madness, and it rests on four things they know (or at least sense) about the deficit debate that the rest of the political class often ignores.

President Barack Obama wants a right-leaning deficit deal. For months, liberals have expressed frustration with the president's deficit strategy. The White House made no effort to tie a debt ceiling vote to the extension of the Bush tax cuts in December. It pre-emptively conceded that any increase in the ceiling should be accompanied by spending cuts. And every time Republicans dug in their heels, the administration gave ground.

The not-so-secret secret is that the White House has given ground on purpose. Just as Republicans want to use the debt ceiling to make the president live with bigger spending cuts than he would otherwise support, Obama's political team wants to use the leverage provided by those crazy Tea Partiers to make Democrats live with bigger spending cuts than they normally would support.

Why? Because the more conservative-seeming the fi-

nal deal, the better for the president's re-election effort. In that environment, Republicans have every incentive to push and keep pushing. Since any deal they cut will be used as an election-year prop in 2012, they need to make sure the president actually earns his budget-cutting bona fides. Tax increases are lurking just over the horizon.

The White House hasn't made spending concessions just because the president wants to campaign as a deficit cutter next year. It has made concessions because it knows that taxes are already scheduled to go up when the Bush-era tax rates expire at the end of 2012.

If Obama gains a second term, congressional Republicans will have to choose between a deal that lets the top rate go back to 39 percent (a \$700 billion tax increase over 10 years) or no deal at all (a \$3.8 trillion tax increase). Obviously, this dilemma won't exist if President Mitt Romney occupies 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. But Obama's re-election is the more likely scenario, meaning that any deal struck this summer comes with a very large asterisk attached: (AST) Includes tax increases to be named later.

Bipartisan budget deals usually deliver fewer spending cuts than they promise.

The grand bargains of the past haven't been as bad for conservatives as right-wing mythology sometimes makes them out to be. As a share of GDP, federal spending fell faster in the decade after George H.W. Bush broke his "read my lips, no new taxes" pledge and cut a deficit deal with congressional Democrats than it did during the Reagan era.

But in absolute terms, no bipartisan bargain in the last three decades has delivered anywhere near the spending reductions it promised. (As The Washington Examiner's Philip Klein notes, by 1995 actual spending was \$58 billion high-

er than it was projected to be when Bush the Elder and the Democrats reached their 1990 agreement.) Bipartisan tax increases, by contrast, always seem to happen as scheduled.

The long-term deck is stacked in favor of tax increases.

For decades, the tug-of-war between left and right has kept government's share of the economy nearly constant, around 19 percent of GDP. But in what you might call the revenge of Lyndon Johnson, the ballooning cost of Medicare is poised to tilt the debate decisively toward liberalism.

For now, tax increases and entitlement cuts are equally unpopular. But with every passing year, the constituency for letting Medicare grow as scheduled gets bigger and bigger, and the clout of working-age taxpayers diminishes. Already, even a relatively radical proposal like Rep. Paul Ryan's budget seems compelled to exempt current retirees from its Medicare reforms. Imagine how the landscape will look in a decade.

These are the realities driving Republican intransigence. Past experience, present politics and future trends all suggest that conservatives should be aiming for the nearly perfect in the current negotiation, rather than the merely good.

But this logic also cuts both ways. Precisely because conservatives have a window of opportunity that they may not have again, there's also a strong case to be made for striking the biggest possible deal – even if that deal requires concessions that a smaller deal does not.

At the moment, Republicans seem to be moving toward a smaller, purer bargain. Depending on what's being offered, that may be the right course. But self-described "constitutional conservatives" should remember that Mr. Madison's ingenious system doesn't just require compromise. Sometimes it rewards it as well. □



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@ 10pm

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with DJ Virus
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